Local Gender Bias *and* Gender Fairness Committees

Annual Reports 2019–2020

NEW YORK STATE
Unified Court System
NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS
HON. BETTY WEINBERG ELLERIN, CHAIR

ANNUAL REPORTS

Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees • 2019-2020

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee 6
Hon. Rachel L. Kretser, Chair and John Caher, Vice Chair

Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee 55
Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair; Hon. Tatiana Coffinger, Vice Chair; Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq., Vice Chair

Fifth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee 72
Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair

Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee 75
Hon. Teresa Johnson and Mary Aufleger, Chairs

Eighth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee 81
Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Chair

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts 107
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair

Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee 114
Mary Porter and Sheryl Randazzo, Esq., Chairs

Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District, Supreme Court Committee 133
Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez and Josephine Bastone, Chairs

Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Term 141
Hon. Deborah Kaplan and Gregory Testa, Esq., Chairs

Gender Bias Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Criminal Term 189
Hon. Erika Edwards and Lisa M. White-Tingling, Chairs

New York County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee 206
Hon. Heidi C. Cesare, Judge of the Criminal Court, and Gloria Keum, Esq., Outgoing Chairs;
Hon. Ilana Marcus, JCC and Hon. Charlotte Davidson, JCC, Incoming Chairs

Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Term, Gender Fairness Committee 213
Hon. Miriam Cyrulnik, Chair

Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee 216
Hon. Robin Sheares, Outgoing Chair and Hon. Consuelo Mallafre Incoming Chair

Queens County Supreme Court, Civil and Criminal Terms, Gender Fairness Committee 223
Hon. Marguerite A. Grays and Hon. Marcia Hirsch, Chairs

Queens Family Court Women in the Courts/Gender Fairness Committee 231
Hon. Carol A. Stokinger and Hon. Mildred Negron, Chairs

Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee 234
Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto and Hon. Karen B. Wolff, Chairs

Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

Courts Outside New York City

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee
Hon. Rachel L. Kretser, Chair
Albany City Court (Ret.)
RLK1ATT@yahoo.com

John Caher, Vice Chair
Senior Advisor for Strategic Communication
Office of Court Administration
518-453-8669
JCaher@nycourts.gov

Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee
Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair
Fulton County Office Building
223 W. Main Street Rm 216
Johnstown, NY 12095
518-706-3306
PHoye@nycourts.gov

Tatiana Coffinger, Vice Chair
Warren County Supreme Court
1340 State Route 9
Lake George, NY 12845
518-761-6547
TCoffing@nycourts.gov

Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq.
Vice Chair
376 Broadway, Suite 16
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-587-4419
ejt@ejtlaw.com

Fifth Judicial District Committee
Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair
Supreme Court Onondaga County Courthouse
401 Montgomery Street, Rm 401
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-671-1106
DKaralun@nycourts.gov

Sixth Judicial District Committee
Hon. Julie A. Campbell, Chair
Cortland County Supreme and County Court
46 Greenbush Street, STE 301
Cortland, NY 13045
607-218-3343
JACampbe@nycourts.gov

Seventh Judicial District Committee
Hon. Teresa Johnson, Chair
Rochester City Court Hall of Justice
99 Exchange Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14614
585-428-1904
TJohnson@nycourts.gov

Mary A. Aufleger, Chair
Deputy District Executive
Seventh Judicial District
Hall of Justice
99 Exchange Blvd.
Rochester, New York 14614
585-371-3436
MAuflege@nycourts.gov

Eighth Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee
Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Chair
Erie County Supreme Court
50 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-845-2796
EOgden@nycourts.gov

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman
Chair
Supreme Court
111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601
914-824-5790
TRuderma@nycourts.gov

Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts
Hon. Julianne Capetola, Chair
Nassau County Supreme Court
100 Supreme Court Drive
Mineola, NY 11501
516-493-3152
JCapetola@nycourts.gov

Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee
Mary Porter
Court Attorney Referee
John P. Cohalan Jr. Courthouse
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722
631-208-5610
MPorter@nycourts.gov

Sheryl Randazzo, Esq.
464 New York Avenue #100
Huntington, NY 11743
Sheryl@randazzolaw.com

Courts Within New York City

NYC Family Court Committees

Bronx County
Hon. Alma Gomez
Bronx Family Court
900 Sheridan Ave.Bronx, NY 10451
718-618-2260
AGomez@nycourts.gov

New York County
Hon. Emily Olshansky
NY County Family Court
60 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10016
646-386-5118
EOlshans@nycourts.gov

Kings County
Vacant
Kings County Family Court
330 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Queens County
Hon. Elizabeth Fassler, Chair
Queens Family Court
151-20 Jamaica Ave.
Jamaica, NY 11432
EFassler@nycourts.gov

Richmond County
Hon. Karen B. Wolff
Richmond County Family Court
100 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301
718-675-8870
KWolff@nycourts.gov

Bronx County Committees

Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District, Supreme Court Committee
Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez
Co-Chair
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
718-618-1432
DMGonzal@nycourts.gov

Bronx County Civil Court Committee
Hon. Elizabeth Taylor, Co-Chair
Bronx County Civil Court
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
718-618-2548
ETaylor@nycourts.gov

Hon. Eddie J. McShan, Co-Chair
Bronx County Civil Court
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
718-618-2540
EMcShan@nycourts.gov

New York County Committees

Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Branch

Hon. Deborah Kaplan
Supreme Court
60 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007
646-386-5567
DKaplan@nycourts.gov

Gregory Testa, Esq.
Supreme Court Law Dept.
60 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007
646-386-3617
GTesta@nycourts.gov

New York County Civil Court Committee

Hon. Leticia Ramirez
111 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013
646-386-3173
LRamirez@nycourts.gov

Gender Bias Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Hon. Erika Edwards
Supreme Court
100 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013
646-386-4411
EEdwards@nycourts.gov

Lisa M. White-Tingling
Supreme Court
100 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013
646-386-4163
LWhite@nycourts.gov

New York County Criminal Court Committee

Hon. Charlotte Davidson, Co-Chair
CHDavids@nycourts.gov

Hon. Ilana Marcus, Co-Chair
100 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013
IMarcus@nycourts.gov

Kings County Committees

Kings County Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Miriam Cyrulnik
Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal
320 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-296-1536
MCyrulni@nycourts.gov

Kings County Civil Court Committee

Hon. Consuelo Mallafre
Kings County Civil Court
141 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-404-9163
CMallafr@nycourts.gov

Kings County Criminal Court Committee

Hon. Abena Darkeh
Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-404-9849
ADarkeh@nycourts.gov

Queens County Committees

Queens County, Supreme Court, Civil & Criminal Terms Committee

Hon. Marguerite A. Grays Co-Chair
Supreme Court
88-11 Sutphin Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11435
718-298-1212
MGrays@nycourts.gov

Hon. Marcia Hirsch, Co-Chair
Queens Supreme Court
125-01 Queens Blvd.
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
718-298-1435
MHirsch@nycourts.gov

Queens County Criminal Court Committee

Hon. Gia Morris
125-01 Queens Blvd.
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
718-298-0852
GMorris@nycourts.gov

Queens County Civil Court Committee

Hon. Sally Unger
89-17 Sutphin Blvd.
Jamaica, New York 11435
718-262-7373
SUnger@nycourts.gov

Staten Island Committee

Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto Co-Chair
Supreme Court
18 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301
718-876-6424
BPanepin@nycourts.gov

Hon. Karen B. Wolff, Co-Chair
Richmond County Family Court
100 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301
718-675-8870
KWolff@nycourts.gov

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Rachel L. Kretser, Chair and John Caher, Vice Chair

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: Hon. Rachel Kretser (Ret.), Chair and John Caher, Vice Chair

Members: Hon. Rachel Kretser, Ret., John Caher, Hon. Andra Ackerman, Pattie Beeler, Virginia Benedict, Hon. Thomas Breslin, Hon. Christopher Cahill, Hon. Andrew Ceresia, Karen DeBenedetto, Beth Diebel, Hon. Mary Pat Donnelly, Hon. Lisa Fisher, Lisa Frisch, Hon. Helena Heath, Edward Kaplan, Hon. Jill Kehn, Karen Linen, Joanne Macri, Chris McMurray, Rika Murray, Hon. John Reilly, Michelle Pollack Rich, Sarah Rogerson, F. Christian Spies, Matthew Side, Hon. Leslie Stein, Hon. Margaret T. Walsh, Mishka Woodley

Counties served: Albany, Columbia, Green, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: January 10; May 16; and September 4. There were also periodic subcommittee meetings and phone conferences throughout the year.

Average attendance: 15
Do you use Videoconferencing? No

2019 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month
In honor of Women's History Month, our Committee sponsored a CLE program entitled, "Judges, Lawyers and Women's Suffrage. On March 25, approximately 90 judges, lawyers and law students participated in the program held at Albany Law School. 2 CLE credits were provided, 1 for ethics and 1 diversity. Please see attached. We also presented our first ever Gender Fairness Award to John Caher in recognition of his tireless dedication to the mission of the Gender Fairness Committee. John has been the creative force behind so many of the programs and initiatives undertaken by our Committee and was a most deserving recipient. Finally, we released podcasts from interviews with pioneering women attorneys throughout the district.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
For Domestic Violence Awareness Month, on October 15, the Committee sponsored a CLE program entitled , "Revenge Porn: Combating Cyber Sexual Abuse". It was the first program of its kind following the effective date of the new state statute providing criminal penalties to curb abuses, and civil remedies for abuse victims. Two CLE credits were provided to the approximately 70 judges and lawyers who participated. See attached.

Other Special Events or Activities

The Committee continued its oral history project including interviews with pioneering women attorneys throughout the district. Podcasts from those interviews were produced and released periodically.

As a follow up to the NYSBA's groundbreaking report entitled, "If Not Now When," the Committee began raising awareness among the judiciary and attorneys within the District to ensure that female attorneys have equal opportunities to participate in the courtroom.

The Committee responded to a request for comment on the proposal submitted by the LGBTQ Commission to amend the NYS Attorney Biennial Registration Statement. The Committee, on July 4, submitted the attached letter urging that the rule be amended to provide an opportunity for registrants to voluntarily report gender identity and sexual orientation. The recommendation was adopted allowing for the meaningful collection of data and much needed transparency. The Committee received a letter of gratitude from First Department Associate Justice Marcy Kahn for our "eloquent and powerful expression of support...."

On October 23, Judge Kretser was a panelist at the NYSBA Women in the Law Section's annual Women on the Move program. The topic was "Women Charting a New Course". She was asked to talk specifically about the path to the bench.

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email, Flyers, Co-sponsoring Associations' and Organizations' Newsletters, Press Advisories

Who and how many attended? 70-90 attorneys, judges, and law students

Was there any press before or after? Yes

Future Plans

Meetings dates for planned or projected for 2020: May 14

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month:
This year our Women's History Month CLE program is entitled, "Girls Justice: Girls and Girls of Color in the Juvenile Justice System. Please see attached flyer.

Concerns

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020?
The impact of newly enacted criminal justice measures on victims of domestic violence.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Children's Centers and therapy dogs for children in Family Court. We would like to explore the feasibility of following other jurisdictions that have successfully utilized therapy dogs to ease the fears and stresses of children in Family Court. We have a certified therapy dog in Albany, experienced in working with critically ill, emotionally challenged and learning-disabled children that has been made available to us for use in Family Court.

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes, on the impact of criminal justice reforms in cases involving violence against women.

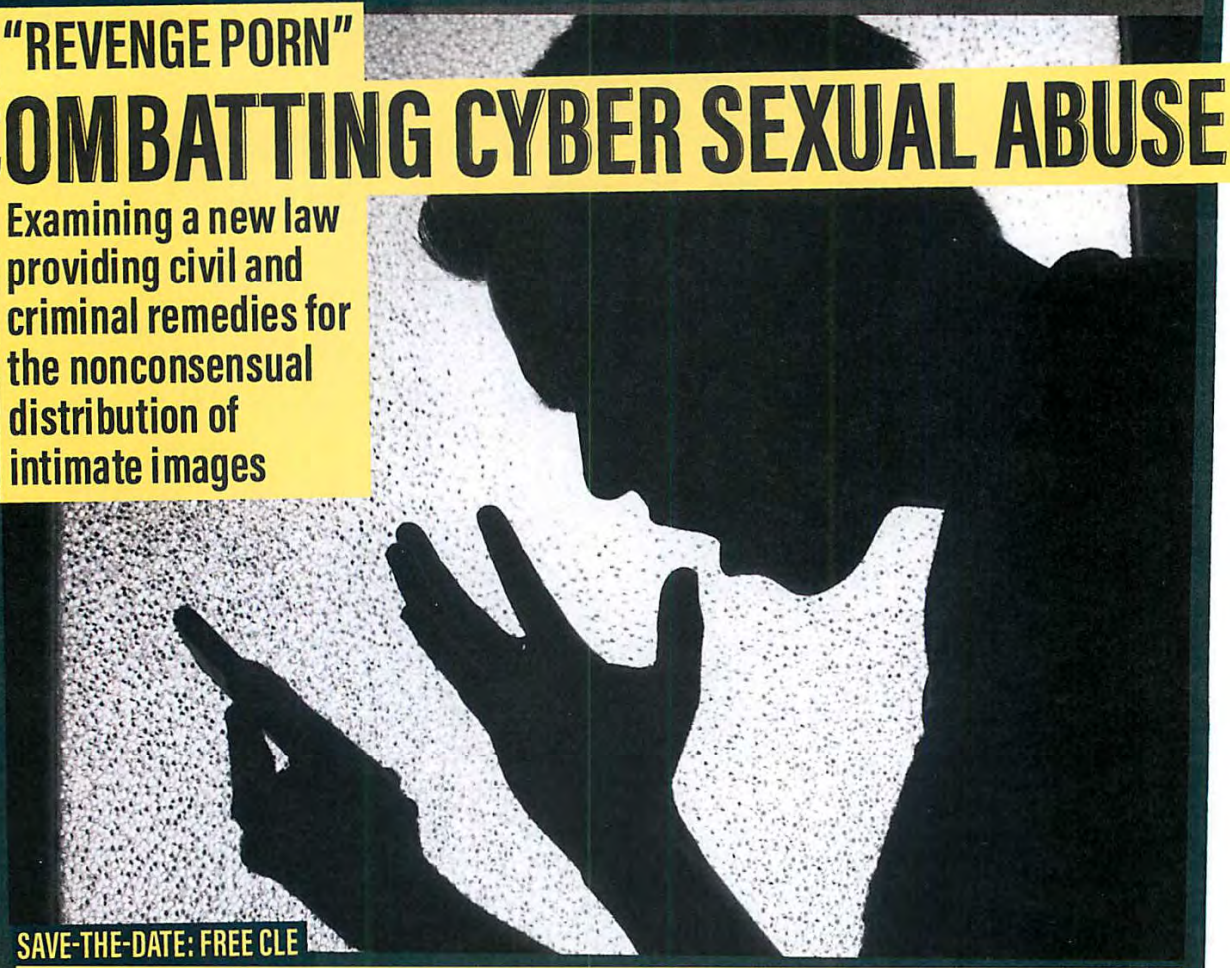
Please share any areas of success during 2019 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: See items listed in the report above.

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations, Judicial Associations, Law Schools, Colleges, Domestic Violence Organizations, Civic and Community Organizations, and Women's Organizations

"REVENGE PORN"
COMBATTING CYBER SEXUAL ABUSE

Examining a new law providing civil and criminal remedies for the nonconsensual distribution of intimate images



SAVE-THE-DATE: FREE CLE

When: Tuesday, Oct. 15, 4-6 p.m. (registration 3:30-4 p.m.)

Where: Alexander Moot Courtroom, Albany Law School, 80 New Scotland Ave, Albany, N.Y.

On July 23, 2019, Gov. Cuomo signed a bill making it a Class A misdemeanor to disseminate "revenge porn." Additionally, with this measure, New York becomes the first state in the nation allowing victims to seek a court-ordered injunction to require a website to remove the offending images. A two-credit (pending) CLE will examine and analyze the new law.

Hon. Rachel Kretser (Ret.), chair, Gender Fairness Committee, Third Judicial District, will moderate a presentation and discussion that will include representatives of the judiciary, prosecution and advocacy community:

- Albany County Family Court Judge **Richard Rivera**
- Rensselaer County District Attorney **Mary Pat Donnelly**
- Sexual privacy attorney **Adam Massey** of C.A. Goldberg PLLC
- **Andrew Sta. Ana,** Legal Director at Day One in NYC; and **Tracey Downing,** Esq. of the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence.

CLE: It is anticipated that this program will qualify for two CLE credits (including a half credit for ethics and a half credit for diversity) thru the Empire Justice Center.

SPONSOR: Gender Fairness Committee of Third Judicial District

CO-SPONSORS: Albany County Bar Association, Albany Law School, Capital District Women's Bar Association, Center for Women in Government, Empire Justice Center, The Legal Project, New York State Bar Association Women in the Law Section, Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

REGISTRATION: http://support.empirejustice.org/site/Calendar?id=106463&view=Detail

Combatting Cyber Sexual Abuse: Oct. 15, 2019

Timed Agenda

I. **Judge Kretser: Welcoming Remarks (10 minutes – 4 pm – 4:10)**

II. **The Problem: What is cyber sexual abuse? (15 minutes – 4:10-4:25)**

III. **What exactly does the law do that couldn't be done previously? (45 minutes – 4:25 to 5:10)**

IV. **What remedies existed prior to the state law? (15 minutes – 5:10-5:25)**

V. **How will the law be challenged/ where is it most vulnerable? (15 minutes – 5:25-5:40)**

VI. **What is the most important take-away for prosecutors (Mary Pat), civil attorneys (Adam), judges (Judge Rivera) and victims (Andrew and Tracey)? 10 minutes – 5:40-5:50)**

VII. **Questions from the audience and closing remarks from Judge Kretser (10 minutes 5:50-6 p.m.)**

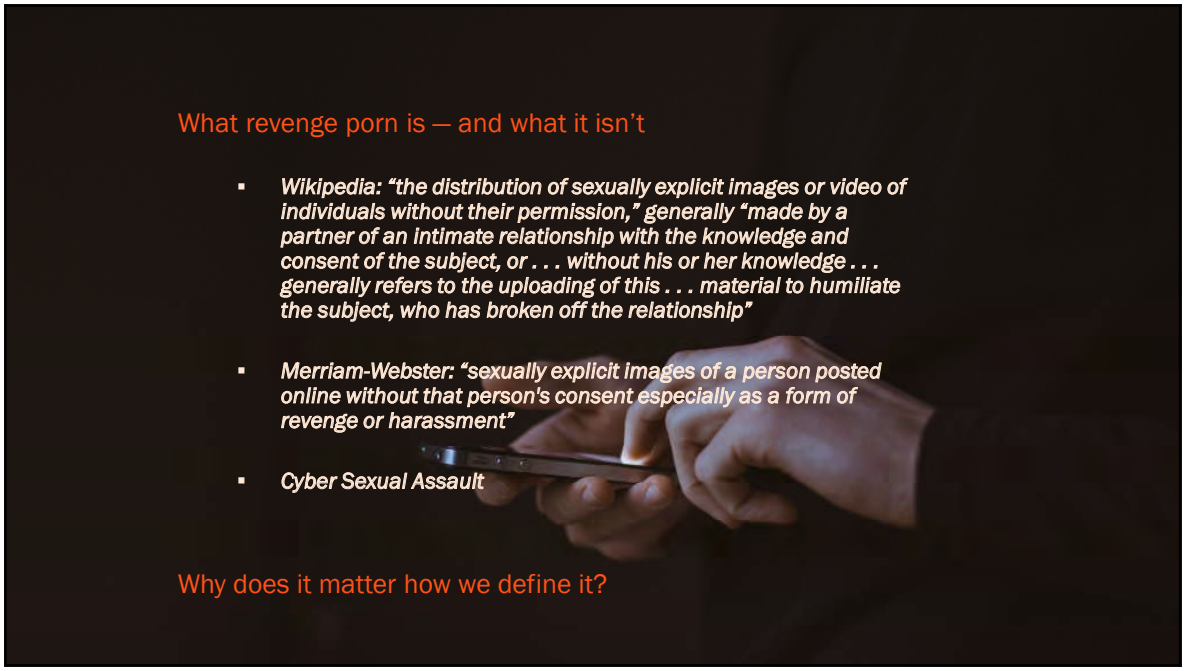
“REVENGE PORN”: COMBATTING CYBER SEXUAL ABUSE

Albany Law School, Oct 15, 2019

1

WHAT IS “REVENGE PORN”?

2



3

The Damage Revenge Porn Causes

- Global publication
- Increased risk of offline stalking and physical attack
- Fear and anxiety; mental health and emotional trauma, increased suicidality
- A form of domestic violence
  - Coercion, threats to disclose when victim attempts to leave the relationship
  - Used to impact custody proceedings, employment status
- Other collateral consequences
  - Employment / Economic
  - Familial
  - Social

4

Cyber Sexual Assault is gender-based violence

90% of victims are female

93% suffered severe emotional distress due to the abuse

30% said they have been harassed or stalked outside of the Internet by users that have seen the material online

51% contemplated suicide

Many victims in the LGBTQ community

Source:CCRI

5

Charging Prior to the NCP Criminal Law

- NYPL § 240.26 (3) - Harassment in the Second Degree: Violation
- NYPL § 240.30 – Aggravated Harassment in the Second Degree: Threat to Cause Harm
- NYPL § 135.60 Coercion in the Third Degree: Expose a secret or publicize an asserted fact, whether true or false, tending to subject some person to hatred, contempt or ridicule
- NYPL § 135.61 Coercion in the Second Degree: Compels or induces a person to engage in sexual intercourse, oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct
- NYPL § 120.45 Stalking in the Fourth Degree: is likely to cause reasonable fear of material harm to the physical health, safety or property of such person…
- NYPL § 120.50 Stalking in the Third Degree: is likely to cause such person to reasonably fear physical injury or serious physical injury, the commission of a sex offense against, or the kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment or death…
- NYPL § 250.45 Unlawful surveillance in the Second Degree Only governs images taken without consent
- NYPL § 130 Sex Offenses - Forcible Compulsion, Inability to Consent, Physically Helpless
- NYPL § 215 Tampering With a Witness Offenses - Fear of Physical Injury or Physical Injury

6

People v. Barber (NYC Criminal Court, 2014)

- Defendant "tweeted" naked pictures of the victim, his girlfriend at the time
- Posts were made on his Twitter account
- He also sent the pictures to the victim's employer and sister
- He admitted to law enforcement that he sent them, but said he had the victim's permission
- Charges (three counts):
  - *Aggravated Harassment in the Second Degree (PL § 240.30 [1] [a])*
  - *Dissemination of an Unlawful Surveillance Image in the Second Degree (PL § 250.55)*
  - *Public Display of Offensive Sexual Material (PL § 245.11 [a])*

7

People v. Barber (NYC Criminal Court, 2014)

The Court granted dismissal on all three counts, even while accepting the allegations as true.

- Count 1: Aggravated Harassment in the Second Degree
- Count 2: Dissemination of an Unlawful Surveillance Image in the Second Degree
- Count 3: Public Display of Offensive Sexual Material

8

People v. Barber (NYC Criminal Court, 2014)

The Court:

- Twitter is a "subscriber-based social networking service," and
- The e-mails were sent "to a small number of private individuals."
- "Both of these are **private acts**."
- In addition,
- "it is not enough to simply plead that the images were of a naked person . . . The statute clearly requires both that the image 'depict[] nudity' *and* that the image 'predominantly appeal to the prurient interest in sex . . .
- **nudity alone is not enough**."

9

What the New Law Does Better

- New Penal Law Section 245.15, "Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image"
- New Private Right of Action (lawsuits)

10

The law

Passed February 28, 2019

Signed July 23, 2019

Active September 21, 2019

- Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image = Class A misdemeanor
- Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image = family offense
- Individuals can pursue private right of action - relief and damages
- Can obtain a court order to permanently remove image from internet – first in the country to do so

11

- Up to 1 year in jail
- 3 years probation
- Fine of up to 1000 in criminal court
- Civil - victim may be awarded financial compensation and offender legally required to cease actions

"Revenge porn" is now a Class A misdemeanor

12

Penal Law § 245.15

Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image.

- 1. A person is guilty of unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image when:
- (a) With intent to cause harm to the emotional, financial or physical welfare of another person, he or she intentionally disseminates or publishes a still or video image of such other person, who is identifiable from the still or video image itself or from information displayed in connection with the still or video image, without such other person's consent, which depicts:
  - *(i) an unclothed or exposed intimate part of such other person; or*
  - *(ii) Such other person engaging in sexual conduct . . . with another person; and*
- (b) such still or video image was taken under circumstances when the person depicted had a reasonable expectation that the image would remain private and the actor knew or reasonably should have known the person depicted intended for the still or video image to remain private, regardless of whether the actor was present when the still or video image was taken.

13

Key elements

- Disclosed
- Intimate
- Identifiable
- Consent
- Intent

14

NY is the first state to enable victims to seek a court order to remove content from websites which host of transmit the content

NY law can apply if either the victim or the perp is located in the state

Victims have up to 2 years to pursue criminal charges and up to 3 years after an image was shared (or one year from the date of discovery, whichever is later) to bring a civil case

Exceptions

- Dissemination during lawful and common practice
- Voluntary – public/commercial
- "Legitimate" public purpose
- CDA230
- Civil remedy is against individual, not website hosting

15

Benefits and Drawbacks to the New Law

- Benefits
  - *Much more specific as to the criminal acts*
  - *Much broader as to the mental state*
  - *Easier to prosecute*
- Drawbacks
  - *How and when is a person "identifiable"?*
  - *How do you prove that the dissemination was "without consent?"*
  - *What is "reasonable" and what is "unreasonable" in this context?*

16

Problems With Vague Laws

- Criminal Law has two basic elements
  - *"Actus reus" – "Guilty Act"*
    - The "bad thing" that someone did
  - *"Mens rea" – "Guilty Mind"*
    - The "bad intent" or thoughts that led to the commission of the crime
- When terms aren't defined properly, criminals can and do find loopholes.

17

The Ethical Prosecutor

18

Who Does the District Attorney Represent?

- The District Attorney represents "the People"
  - *Not only "the People that voted for the District Attorney"*
  - *Not only "the People that got the District Attorney elected"*
  - ***All of the People of the State of New York.***
- The District Attorney holds a "Quasi-Judicial" Office
  - *Discretion*
  - *Integrity*
  - *Truth*

19

- Distrust of Law Enforcement
  - *Feelings of "unfairness"*
  - *Belief that "justice" is actually one-sided*
- Difficulty in bringing successful prosecutions
  - *Witnesses and evidence against defendants "disappear" or never materialize*
  - *Convictions become more difficult to obtain and secure*
- Perception becomes reality
  - *Distrust breeds more distrust*
  - *Public trust is difficult to regain*

What happens when "the People" don't trust the Prosecutor's Office?

20

The "Progressive Prosecutor" Model

- Taking the "Judicial" part of our job seriously
  - *Using our discretion*
  - *Checking our work*
- Being proactive
  - *Prompt disclosure*
  - *Fair proceedings*
  - *Candor with the defense bar and the courts*
  - *Maintain conviction integrity*

21

Can a "Progressive Prosecutor" be effective?

- Absolutely!
- The focus is on doing the right thing
- Seeking justice
- Knowing the weak points in cases makes them stronger when they're viable
- Integrity and truth-seeking gets rewarded in the long run

22

JUDGES, LAWYERS — & — WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Recognizing the Men Who Stood with Women on the Front Lines

This two-credit (pending) CLE will identify many of the men — including prominent judges and attorneys —who advocated and even marched in support of women's rights. It will also explore a judicial ethics question: Could a sitting judge today engage in public advocacy for a controversial political/ social issue? Have judges forfeited the right to engage in public debate?

When: **Monday, March 25,** 4:00 PM–6:00 PM (Registration 3:30 PM–4:00 PM)

Where: Alexander Moot Courtroom, Albany Law School, 80 New Scotland Ave, Albany, N.Y.

Moderator: **Hon. Rachel Kretser (Ret.),** Chair, Gender Fairness Committee, Third Judicial District.

Presenters: **Hon. Richard A. Dollinger,** Acting Supreme Court Justice, ethics expert and author of the article, *The Judges Who Paved the Road to Seneca Falls in 1848* (published in Judicial Notice, a periodical of the Historical Society of the New York Courts).

Hon. Margaret T. Walsh, Supreme Court Justice, co-chair of the Unified Court System's Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics. Justice Walsh will address and explain the various speech-related ethics opinions issued by the Advisory Committee.

Prof. Brooke Kroeger, author of T*he Suffragents: How Women Used Men to Get the Vote.* Professor Kroeger, a professor at New York University, will discuss her exhaustively researched book and the men who helped make it possible for women to obtain the right to vote.

CLE: It is anticipated that the program will qualify for 2 CLE credits, 1 credit for diversity and 1 for ethics.

Sponsor: The program is sponsored by the Gender Fairness Committee of the Third Judicial District, chaired by Hon. Rachel Kretser (Ret.)

Co-sponsors: Albany County Bar Association, Albany Law School, Albany Law Review, Capital District Women's Bar Association, The Legal Project, National Conference of State Trial Judges (ABA), New York State Bar Association Judicial Section, New York State Bar Association Senior Lawyers Section, New York State Bar Association Women in the Law Section, National Association of Women Judges, NY Chapter, Women's Law Caucus of Albany Law School.

Registration: To register, contact the Albany County Bar Association at **www.albanycountybar.org/events**

JUDGES, LAWYERS & WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Recognizing the Men Who Stood with Women on the Front Lines

4 p.m. JUDGE KRETSER WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS ETC.

4:10 – Dean's remarks

4:15 – 4:45 p.m. JUDGE DOLLINGER: The Judges who paved the road to Seneca Falls in 1848

- **The legal bases for coverture**
- **The economic forces at work**
- **1846 convention and the role of Ira Harris, founder of Albany Law School**
- **Who were the judges at the forefront, and what was their motivation?**
- **How did 1848 set the stage for 1917?**
- ***Minor v. Happersett*—Why did it take so long to get from 1848 to 1917?**
- **How can men make a difference today?**

Questions for Judge Dollinger

4:45- 5:15 pm PROFESSOR KROEGER

- **Men's League; Who, what, when, where, why?**
- **Who were these men?**
- **What was their motivation?**
- **How did these prominent men make it socially, politically and maybe economically feasible for other men to support suffrage?**
- **What are the lessons, political and otherwise, to learn from this partnership?**
- **How can men make a difference today?**

Questions for Professor Kroeger

5:15-5:45 p.m. Ethics Discussion

Presentation by Judge Dollinger addressing these issues:

- **Could judges today openly advocate as they did in the 1840s and early 1900s?**
- **Could judges advocate for a constitutional amendment?**
- **What are the free speech rights of judges?**
- **Republican Party of Minnesota v. White: U.S. Supreme Court**
- **In re Raab: NYS Court of Appeals**
- **How has the Advisory Committee interpreted White, Rabb?**
- **What can judges do and not do?**
- **Are the rules different when a judge is seeking re-election?**

5:45-6 p.m. — Questions for Judge Dollinger from Judge Kretser and audience

By Hon. Rachel Kretser

Chair, Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Women's History Month is an annual celebration of the contributions of women, and each year we honor the brave women who fought for such basic rights as the right to own property and the right to vote – as we should. But we shouldn't neglect to observe the efforts of our male colleagues.

This Women's History Month takes on special significance as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of congressional passage of the 19th Amendment, granting nationwide suffrage to women. On this historic occasion, the Gender Fairness Committee of the Third Judicial District, which I am honored to chair, will present an unusual program March 25 at Albany Law School: Judges, Lawyers & Women's Suffrage: Recognizing the Men Who Stood with Women on the Front Lines.

Men obviously played a vital and decisive role in securing the right of women to vote for the simple reason that women lacked the right to vote. They were also at the forefront, more than a half century earlier, of securing for married women the right to own property, a critical precursor to suffrage.

But who were these pioneering men, what did they do and how did they do it?

They were some of the most prominent and influential professionals and business leaders in New York society, men such as publisher Oswald Garrison Villard, banker George Foster Peabody, financier James Lee Laidlaw, attorney Thomas W. Hotchkiss, educational reformer John Dewey, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, investigative journalist George Creel, magazine editor Max Eastman, Prof. Nathaniel Schmidt of Colgate and Cornell, President Langdon Stewardson of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, novelist Floyd Dell, playwright William Dean Howells and others who established the Men's League for Woman Suffrage.

They were also prominent lawyers and judges who took to the streets and marched in support of rights for their mothers, wives and daughters. Ira Harris, the founder of Albany Law School, was well ahead of his time and advanced a married women's property right proposal in 1846. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis was, in the words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "an ardent supporter of votes for women."

These attorneys and judges were only a few of the many members of the bench and bar who advocated for women's rights at a time when such advocacy often exposed them to ridicule and derision.

Our program will rescue from obscurity the many male suffragists and examine whether judges today could openly advocate for that cause, or any, with the current restrictions on judicial speech.

- Acting Supreme Court Justice Richard A. Dollinger, a jurist in Rochester and author of a scholarly article on the provision of women's property rights, will discuss the efforts of judges (all men) in the mid-1800s to advance the cause.

- New York University Professor Brooke Kroeger, a former journalist and the author of "The Suffragents: How Women Used Men to Get the Vote," will discuss the men who were at the forefront of the suffrage movement.

- Supreme Court Justice Margaret Walsh, co-chair of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, will discuss the limits on judicial speech and off-the-bench political activism.

In this era of heightened political division and an us v. them mindset, it is especially important to remember that the ongoing battle for equal rights is not a battle of women v. men or left v. right. Rather, it is a battle of right v. wrong — and it is wrong to polarize the struggle for gender equality by condemning the bad actors without acknowledging the good ones.

Hon. Rachel Kretser (ret.), a former Albany City Court Judge and Acting Albany County Judge for Domestic Violence Cases, was the first woman ever to serve on a criminal court bench in the Third Judicial District. She is currently an adjunct professor at Albany Law School and chair of the Third JD Gender Fairness Committee.

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE CRISIS.

The New York Times

Feb. 7, 1915

The Legislature of New York State has seen fit to place the question of woman suffrage squarely before the present electorate. Every man of voting age must meet the issue courageously, intelligently, with clear vision. The answer of New York State to this long pending query should be forcible and definite. The proposed amendment to the State Constitution should be voted down by such a majority of the voters as to deprive the advocates of an objectionable and unreasonable derangement of the political and social structure of any further hope of success in this State. The question involved is not new, all the arguments of the suffragists are old and were long ago refuted and sent to limbo. Their ceaseless and noisy agitation has not developed a single new idea. Woman suffrage would result either in a needless political muddle or in a social and political turmoil which would tend to weaken the State, to stir up discord in society and in the home, and would put obstacles in the way of progress which the wisest statesmanship might fail to overcome.

The grant of suffrage to women is repugnant to instincts that strike their roots deep in the order of nature. It runs counter to human reason, it flouts the teachings of experience and the admonitions of common sense. Although women have other capacities without number; in equal distinction and some In higher honor, they have never possessed or developed the political faculty. Without the counsel and guidance of men no woman ever ruled a State wisely and well. The defect is innate and one for which a cure is both impossible and not to be desired. That they lack the genius for politics Is no more to their discredit than man’s unhandiness in housewifery and in the care of infants and his small endowment of those finer qualities of charm and tenderness that steal away half of life's sharpness are a reproach to him. There are two human estates, the man’s and the woman's. Their boundaries are traced by no imaginary or effaceable lines. Nature has marked them by metes and bounds that no human being ever yet overlooked save with the conscious intent to transgress her laws.

For the intelligent use of the ballot men in their daily callings undergo a ceaseless training. The hand of the law has within its reach every man and every woman, but in their business affairs men are in such immediate touch with controlling authority that they find themselves all the time forced to take thought about the laws that help or hinder them, whether they be good or bad, and in what way they may be bettered. The merchant and the manufacturer, men engaged in the business of banking, insurance, real estate, foreign trade, the lawyer, the doctor,

the blacksmith. the farmer, men in all the thousand branches of male affairs, habitually and necessarily form reasoned opinions of the efficiency of government, the virtue of laws, the policies and the promises of parties, the character and the pledges of candidates, and they go to the polls prepared to cast a ballot that will, so far as it may, give effect to their convictions and their desires. Some men, many men, vote foolishly, but their motives and their decisions have at least some discoverable relation to the public aspects of the questions at issue. When that relation is not discoverable men have to admit that they vote in a feminine way, for women's reasons, not men's. The voter must help to decide the gravest public questions relating to labor, international disputes, measures of national defense, race problems, public morality, monetary plans, tariffs, and taxation. On such questions men vote according to judgments founded on observation and knowledge acquired in the pursuit of their daily business. Women would inevitably attempt to decide such matters empirically or emotionally.

But, say the suffragists, women as well as men may equip themselves for the intelligent use of the…women may and do, the mass of women will not and cannot, save by spending their lives in the hard school where men learn how to vote. If women are to forsake the home for the counting room, the law Office, the wheat fields, and the smithy, then indeed, barring temperamental differences that only the hand of GOD can efface, they may in time be able to cast a ballot which they can explain and justify by reasons Which men can understand. Is it worthwhile? Let the agitators for woman suffrage answer that one question. Is it worthwhile to subvert the whole order of human society by putting women to do men's work? Is it worthwhile to take woman out of the school where she fits herself for her high natural duties to put her under a tuition against which her body and mind and soul would be in perpetual revolt? Of course, the most fanatical advocate of votes for women would never preach a doctrine so monstrous. Yet that is the only way. Either women must work as men work, or they will never be qualified to vote as men vote.

Let there be no mistake as to the import of this argument It is not in the remotest manner based upon the assumption or the belief that woman is man's inferior, either Intellectually or in any other way. It rests upon the established fact that man's work is different from woman's work, and that it is his work and his striving in his own particular field that give man the qualifying knowledge essential to Intelligent voting. We are as far as possible from insisting that woman Is incapable of acquiring that knowledge, we do insist that she can acquire it only through a radical reorganization of society which would condemn her to do men's tasks, to bear men's burdens. But if the women were to take up man's duties, who is to assume the women's duties? Both are honorable, both bring their rewards. one is as necessary as the other, for both are indispensable to society. And women would be profoundly affected by taking up man's labors, it would inevitably be a roughening process, women would be changed, and not for the better. If there be those who would contend that women must become less womanly, that they should become masculine in thought and feeling and temperament, they will not admit the force of this argument: neither will they openly admit that they would like to see women

become more like men. But without that transformation women cannot qualify for the vote as men qualify, and there is no other way to acquire the qualification. The effect upon women is one of the consequences most to be dreaded.

No upright and decent man desires to withhold from woman any privilege which will benefit her. The growth of what is vaguely called the feminist movement has already had alarming results. Moral laxities which used to be regarded with abhorrence are too frequently extenuated. The hackneyed cry that “what is right for the man Is also right for the woman” is heard continually. It is specious, shameless, unrighteous. Nothing was ever right in a man's conduct which was not moral and consistent with the laws of GOD and man. There is no good word to say for loose living by either sex. It is the feeblest and wickedest argument for an "increased freedom” for women (the phrase is common property) that some men are immoral. But it is one heard too often, and one, we are constrained to predict, which will be heard more frequently, uttered more vociferously. If the right to vote is extended to women.

At present, in spite of the incessant activities of the advocates of greater license for women, of the iteration of many arguments against the bonds of marriage and the tyranny of the home, there is a strong and wholesome barrier which serves to keep women apart from men in the hurly-burly of life, to insure them courtesies from the opposite sex, to give them many precious privileges. Women already exert a constant and powerful Influence in our public affairs. We are firmly convinced that the breaking down of the barrier would bring upon them a burden of new evils, that it would tend to coarsen women, to deprive them of natural rights and privileges without due compensation. That the proposed large extension of the suffrage could in any circumstances act as a triumphant regenerative force in our politics we cannot for a moment admit The right to vote has been possessed for many years by the women of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Idaho, and has been granted more recently to those of Washington, California. Arizona, Kansas, Oregon. Illinois, Montana, and Nevada. The moral effect of woman suffrage in those States has been negative. The records are extant.

It has been said too often that “woman suffrage will come in spite of everything.” If that is true, every high-minded, responsible man who knows it will bring affliction with it if it does come must do his best to postpone the evil day. Many men have taken the matter too lightly.
With the great increase of women of social distinction and personal charm in the ranks of the suffragists public support of the cause in a polite way has become a sort of agreeable “function” associated with the animated talk of bright women who have found something to talk about. Men of this kind have done much more than they realize to encourage and strengthen the movement, to give It form and force. Associating with well-bred, intelligent, and witty women, many of whom have taken up suffrage agitation as a mere pastime, they have’ not taken pains to look closely enough into the matter to comprehend how deeply rooted in the basic ideals of our

civilization are the true objections to turning woman out into the everlasting scrimmage of life, depriving her of the respect and protection she needs in return for a privilege Which would surely fail of effect.

If women suffer wrongs, it is the duty of men to right them. If bad laws hamper and afflict them, men should bestir themselves to have those laws repealed. It is the privilege of men to care for the women. Are they prepared to resign that privilege? Let them take note of the social heresies, the ' dalliance with “advanced” theories, that amaze them in current literature and the pronouncements of certain feminine leaders of thought. If they are convinced that comparatively few of the suffragists they meet are now inclined to extol the husbandless mother, the trial marriage, and the more extravagant vagaries of the seekers for a new freedom, they cannot blind themselves to the obnoxious growth in the last few years of theories of living which no longer sliock the women who fancy their sex needs more liberty. The " heelers” and the manipulators of votes will all support woman suffrage. It is worth bearing in mind that the threatened extension of the ballot lias no terrors for the practitioners of corrupt politics. The disposition of politicians, not of true statesmen, to adapt themselves quickly to what they regard, often mistakenly, as public sentiment, has led to much of the success of the suffragists thus far; was, in fact, the cause of the recent foolish action of our own Legislature. But it is just as well that the matter should be decided now by all the men of the State. They are facing a grave crisis.

JUDGES, LAWYERS & WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Recognizing the Men Who Stood with Women on the Front Lines

…and those who stood in trenches on the opposite side

1

JUDICIAL INTERVENTION TO SENCA FALLS AND BEYOND 1800 – 1910

Hon. Richard A. Dollinger

April 2019

Albany, New York

2

PRIMOGENITURE

- **Primogeniture** is the legal right of the first-born son to be the sole inheritor of an entire estate. The process of primogeniture was designed to keep a fiefdom intact and its owner responsible for the feudal services owed to a lord. Entail is the legal restriction of an estate to a grantee (owner) and certain of his direct descendants. An entailed estate could not be removed from the family or sold so long as lineal heirs meeting the proper requirements of the original grant were alive. The "Charles in Charge" rule – valid today?

- 1786 – New York Legislature abolishes primogeniture -- abandoned by 1800 in America: Thomas Jefferson was the leading proponent

3

The Rule of Coverture

- Coverture, the centuries-old English common law rule that dictated that when a woman married, her husband acquired the right to all her property.
- Blackstone said it best:
  - *These are the chief legal effects of marriage during the coverture; upon which we may observe, that even the disabilities which the wife lies under are for the most part intended for her protection and benefit: so great a favourite is the female sex of the laws of England.*

Blackstone, Commentaries on the Law of England, Vol.1, p. 442-445 (1765)

- The husband could pledge his wife's property to creditors, sell it or otherwise dispose of it. A wife could not enter into a contract without her husband's consent. A married woman had no control over the custody of her children. As the authors of the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments noted, under coverture, a married woman was "civilly dead."

4

Women in Chains
Dawn of the 19th Century

- 1664 – The Duke's Law – divorce for adultery or abandoned for five year
- 1675 – English governor says no authority – no divorces until the revolution
- 1777 – New York Legislature permitted divorce but only for adultery.
- 1787 -- The Gouverneur Divorce – Alexander Hamilton -- New York enacted a law allowing divorces for adultery but the law provided innocent party could remarry, guilty party could not. Gov. Clinton vetoed, should not prohibit remarriage – veto overridden – ban on remarriage of the guilty party remained until 1879
- Divorces were few and far between: a married women was virtually trapped in marriage forever – if guilty of adultery, never remarry.

5

EMERGENCE OF JUDICIAL VOICES FOR GENDER EQUITY

- Thomas Herttell – Judge of the New York City Marine Court (eventually the City Court of New York) – inspired by Thomas Paine
- 1836 -- Elected to state Assembly
- 1837 – introduced first bill to eliminate coverture – published his speech -- *The Right of Married Women to hold and Control Property Sustained by the Constitution of the State of New York* –
  - *coverture as a "post-independence vestige" of the "dark ages" of "human vassalage" - he waded into the passions of the growing abolition movement; coverture, he argued, was "uncomfortably close to Negro slavery,"*
  - *The new changes in his bill, Herttell noted, would subdue "superstitious mummery. . ."*
  - *Enter Ernestine Rose – 1838 petition to eliminate coverture*

6

THE BACKHANDED ROLE OF DANIEL CADY

- A lawyer with three sons and four daughters, his sons die before adulthood – very prosperous – 1795 admitted to the Bar – represented both Hamilton and Burr and worked a case with Abraham Lincoln – Fulton County
- Assemblyman & Congressman – Justice of the Supreme Court, *ex officio* on the Court of Appeals
- He had a fiery daughter: Elizabeth, married Henry Stanton. When she overheard her father advising a wife that she had no rights, she vowed to change them. He told her…

  When you are grown up, and able to prepare a speech, you must go down to Albany and talk to the legislators; tell them all you have seen in the office—the sufferings of these Scotch women . . . if you can persuade them to pass new laws, these old ones will be a dead letter.

7

JUDGE CADY AND HIS FATHERLY ADVICE

- Cady never supported his daughter's drive for women's rights, especially when he was Supreme Court Judge:
  - Upon learning of her speech to the state Legislature in 1854, he threatened to disinherit her.
  - Stanton, herself, described his reaction as a "terrible scourging" from her father

8

1840s – The Fervor Grows

- Bills for married women's rights come to Albany but, the backpedaling continues:
- The Assembly Judiciary Committee declared in 1844:

  "laws and customs which have stood the test of time should not be changed without due consideration or for slight causes."
- As one commentator noted, the Assembly's declaration at this time was a potent remainder that "any change would take away power and authority from the state's key stakeholders, married white males"

9

Elisha Hurlbut
Judge and Advocate

- 1848 – New York City lawyer and newly-elected Supreme Court Judge publishes *Essay on Human Rights and Their Political Guaranties*,
- Hurlbut argued that "women's rights are as sacred to the law as men's" and "her concern with government is as great and important as his own."
- Hurlbut noted that "women have suffered enough from the barbarous tyranny of the common law." He added that marriage was uncertain bargain because a wife exchanged "her worldly estate for that most uncertain estate—a man."

10

1846 Constitutional Convention

Voters approve in 1845 – new figure emerges – new Whig Party

- Ira Harris of Albany introduces Harttell's idea on the convention floor. As a widower, Harris argued in favor of the bill *"as a father, anxious to secure to his own [daughter] the little benefit that he might have."*
- Others argued that the bill would cure *"many enormities that had been inflicted on females by their worthless husbands."*
- The Jacksonian Democrats counterattack – Charles O'Connor – a bachelor lawyer from New York City – seeks delay but fails – Convention approves the married women's right amendment by 58-44 vote –
- The New York Evening Post said the new constitutional provision meant marriage would *"no longer work a complete civil annihilation of women."*

11

The Democrats Counterattack

- Three days later, O'Connor moves for reconsideration and succeeds
- The amendment was an *"imminent threat the end of domestic tranquility,"* adding that a wife with a *"separate estate might rival her husband in trade or become a partner for his rival."* He said the proposal was *"like the serpent's tale to the first woman."* The amendment, enshrined in the constitution, would lead to the *"subversion of the felicity of the marital state"* and there was *"no true American who desired to see the condition of marital relations changed."*
- Another called it *"as strumpet provision that would justly alarm the country."* – The Amendment is defeated and the convention fails to adopt it.

12

MOMENTUM BUILDS TO 1848

- Judge John Fine from Ogdensburg – St. Lawrence County's first judge
- 1847 – publishes *Lecture Delivered Before the Ogdensburg Lyceum on the Political Rights of Women.* He argued:
  - *Women's rights were founded on the Declaration of Independence and "freedom's golden rule" that all are created free and equal. He added: "none should ever be allowed to restrict its universality." Women, as well as men, are entitled to its "full enjoyment of its practical blessings*
- Lost to Cady in the newly-created Supreme Court in 1847 – wins a Senate seat – introduces the Married Women's Property Rights Act – retroactive application – married women would be freed immediately
- Harris, Fine & Hurlbut all had daughters – Harris' became famous

13

The 44 Married Ladies from Genesee and Wyoming Counties

- In March 1848, forty-four "married ladies" petitioned the legislature from the towns of Darien and Covington in Genesee and Wyoming counties, New York. Their petition argued, with potent sarcasm:
- *That your Declaration of Independence declares, that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. And as women have never consented to, been represented in, or recognized by this government, it is evident that in justice no allegiance can be claimed from them.*
- The women argued that the legislature should "abolish all laws which hold married women more accountable for their acts than infants, idiots and lunatics."

14

THE MEASURE PASSES ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY

- A co-sponsor of the Bill said:
  - The measure was so radical and so extreme that even *"its friends had doubts; but the moment any important amendment was offered, up rose the whole question of women's proper place in society."*
  - But the promoters were undeterred:
  - "*We meant to strike a hard blow,*" the sponsor later confessed, *"and if possible shake the old system of laws to their foundations and leave it to other times and wiser councils to perfect a new system."*
  - March 29, 1848 – bill passes with just one dissenting vote – signed on April 7
  - Seneca Falls Convention convenes in July, 1848

15

Ms. Stanton Saw the Connection at the Time

- The new statute, Ms. Stanton later said:
- *Encouraged action on the part of women, as the reflection naturally arose that if men who make the laws were ready for some onward step, surely the women themselves should express some interest in the legislation.*
- But, an inevitable march had begun:
  - *Clearly, the 1848 statute was crudely drafted and limited in scope and necessitated numerous amendments. But in some ways it was the Pandora's box that its opponents feared. It invited further scrutiny of the marriage equation which in turn cleared the way for the earnings act. But to women who went on to demand greater rights that summer of 1848 at Seneca Falls it was unquestionably good. It was the inspiration for organized and sustain policy agitation. From the passage of the statute in the spring of 1848, they envisioned a steady advance to nothing less than their complete equality.*
  - Coverture was dead – feudal agrarian society was dying as well.

16

THE MARCH SLOWS TO A CRAWL

The Springsteen Anthem - One Step Up, Two Steps Back

- The progress, for women in the mid-19th Century was slow.
- 1848 – Now, Judge Harris refuses to grant retroactive application of the new law – later declare retroactive application unconstitutional, Court of Appeals affirms – Westervelt v. Gregg, 12 NY 202 (1854)
- 1855 -- The Court of Appeals refused to allow a married woman to bequeath a charitable gift of money she owned prior to marriage. Wadhams v. Am. Home Missionary Soc'y, 12 N.Y. 415 (1855).
- 1860 – New Married Women's Property Rights Act – retain earnings and keep in a separate account, bring law suits, joint custodians of children – Senate 18-3, Assembly 95-5.
- 1862 -- The Court of Appeals declined to permit a deceased woman to bequeath pre-marital property to a friend because the husband had acquired all title to it under coverture. Ryder v. Hulse, 24 N.Y. 372 (1862). The husband in that case had supported his wife during the marriage, most obviously manifested by his annual gift to her of a calf.
- Civil War intervenes 1861 – almost all initiatives are put on hold
- 1878 – Court of Appeals allows a husband to recover his wife's outside earnings because she did not clearly intend to create a separate account – Birkbeck v. Ackroyd – *"judiciary was inclined to read statutes to disturb the common law as little as possible."*

17

THE MARCH FOR LEGISLATION ENDS

Constitutional Complications

- 1868 – women start voting in New York Nyack, Fayetteville, Mount Vernon, Brooklyn --
- 1870 -- The 15th Amendment does not mention women – prohibits the government from denying the right to vote "race, color or previous condition of servitude" –
- 1872 – Susan B. Anthony votes in Rochester - Victoria Woodhull runs for president
  - Virginia Minor seeks to register in St. Louis, denied on the basis of sex, her husband sues the registrar, Reese Happersett, claims the denial violates the Civil War amendments.
  - Missouri Supreme Court says *"universal practice . . . Voting rights to men only" – 14th Amendment refers to men only . . ."*

18

Minor v. Happersett
88 US 162 (1875)

- Chief Justice Morrison Waite – Minor was a citizen but she did not enjoy voting as one of the "privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States . . ." -- unanimous
  - Women had no affirmative right to vote
  - At its founding, the county did not give all citizens the right to vote – barred by sex, age, race, ownership of land . . .
  - *"It cannot for a moment be doubted that if it had been intended to make all citizens of the United States voters, the framers of the Constitution would not have left it to implication. So important a change in the condition of citizenship as it actually existed, if intended, would have been expressly stated."*

19

Minor v. Happersett
88 US 162 (1875)

- *. . . after the adoption of the fourteenth amendment, it was deemed necessary to adopt a fifteenth, as follows: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." The fourteenth amendment had already provided that no State should make or enforce any law which should abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States. If suffrage was one of these privileges or immunities, why amend the Constitution to prevent its being denied on account of race, &c.? Nothing is more evident than that the greater must include the less, and if all were already protected why go through with the form of amending the Constitution to protect a part?*

20

Minor v. Happersett
88 US 162 (1875)

- *We have given this case the careful consideration its importance demands. If the law is wrong, it ought to be changed; but the power for that is not with us. The arguments addressed to us bearing upon such a view of the subject may perhaps be sufficient to induce those having the power, to make the alteration, but they ought not to be permitted to influence our judgment in determining the present rights of the parties now litigating before us. No argument as to woman's need of suffrage can be considered. We can only act upon her rights as they exist. It is not for us to look at the hardship of withholding. Our duty is at an end if we find it is within the power of a State to withhold.*
- *Being unanimously of the opinion that the Constitution of the United States does not confer the right of suffrage upon any one, and that the constitutions and laws of the several States which commit that important trust to men alone are not necessarily void, we affirm . . .*

21

POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS

- Conflict over the 15th Amendment and African-American suffrage – splits the movement
- Lack of male gumption for women's suffrage –
  - No Presidential candidate in second half of the 19th Century supported women's suffrage – Grant to McKinley (McKinley dodges the question with his "spheres of influence" speech) – even the Democrat Grover Cleveland
  - Republican hegemony – "why reshuffle the cards?" – Democrats were never big on women's suffrage – remember Charles O'Connor in New York
  - William Jennings Bryan – came the closest but even he waffled.
  - Theodore Roosevelt – 1898 told Anthony "not that important" -- never in his presidency, waited until he was the Bull Moose candidate in 1912
  - Woodrow Wilson – 1915 – states should do it, voted for women's suffrage in New Jersey, never supported until September, 1918
  - FDR – 1910 as a member of the New York State Senate -- supported

22

POLITICAL CHANGES

- 1869 – Territory of Wyoming grants women the right to vote – motive?
- 1878 – first suffrage proposal set before the United State Senate – Aaron Sargent, California Senator – same wording as the 19th Amendment
- 1887 – first vote in the Senate on women's suffrage – lost 34-16
- 1893 – Colorado adopts women's suffrage
- 1896 – Utah & Idaho join the movement
- The opposition to women's suffrage was concentrated in the South and East. In 1919, 15 states had women's voting rights but only two were east of the Mississippi River.

23

POLITICAL OUTLET TIES TO PROHIBITION

- Women, faced with lack of the vote, turned to temperance as a tool for political power
- 1874 -- Formation of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) – rapid growth, focused on women and children's health – Francis Willard and the need for the right to vote –
- Success in state prohibition movements before the 18th Amendment
- Progressive movement begins to push for a multitude of changes in the immigrant rich cities in the East
- **Note: New York approved the 18th Amendment six months before approving the 19th Amendment**

24

THE NEXT CHALLENGE

Will men allow women the vote?

If so, who steps forward?

25

Pioneering Women Interview with Cynthia S. LaFave, LaFave Wein & Frament PLLC

June 27, 2019

John Caher: It is June 27, 2019. Judge Kretser and I are interviewing Cynthia LaFave. Before we started, you said something I want to follow up on. You said you never wanted to be a "woman lawyer." What do you mean?

Cynthia LaFave: To me, "I wasn't looking to be a 'woman lawyer,' or the 'best woman lawyer,' or anything like that. I didn't want to be identified as a woman first. I wanted to be identified first as a lawyer. That was important to me because I felt it was almost segregation. I didn't want to be a woman-owned business. I just wanted to be a lawyer first."

John Caher: Okay, let's go back to the beginning. When and where were you born?

Cynthia LaFave: I was born in Endicott, New York, and-

John Caher: Binghamton area, right?

Cynthia LaFave: Yes. I lived there, I believe, for about four or five days, and my parents were being evicted from a house because apparently the people who rented it to my parents didn't own the house. While I was in the hospital, my father was packing everything that we owned and putting it into a truck, and when he got to the hospital he'd forgotten to keep out any clothes for me. I was taken with just rags around me or something from the hospital.

Cynthia LaFave: I grew up in Boonville, New York. Boonville is where I lived until I was a senior in high school. At that point, somebody decided that it was a good idea for me to switch schools because they wanted to move, so they moved to Lyons Falls and I went to a new school district for my senior year.

John Caher: What did your parents do?

Cynthia LaFave: My mother was a 30-year-old widow with five children between the ages of 1 and 9. My father died when I was 8. He had been sick for a couple of years. I was not actually put into foster care, but was given to neighbors to stay while my mother was over in Boston. He was at Mass General. For long periods of time I would stay with neighbors. I remember one house that was a beautiful ... I thought it was the most amazing house in the world. It probably would go for $100,000, so you've got to look at it from that point of view. Back then it was probably $50,000. It had a formal living room, and it had a formal dining room, and I was told that I could go into the small sitting room, and I was not to go into any other rooms. I got a nickel every day for taking out the garbage and a

dime for cleaning the posts on the stairway. I stayed there for a while. My brothers were with my grandmother and my sister was with another neighbor.

John Caher: So, it was kind of an informal foster situation?

Cynthia LaFave: It was a foster situation. I think that they were really good people, but it was a very cold ... like there was no communication really with me. That was before my father died. He died when I was 8.

Judge Kretser: You did not have it easy growing up.

Cynthia LaFave: I did not. No. No, it got worse.

Cynthia LaFave: My mother was a nurse and my father was a biology teacher. He'd probably be very unhappy with the grade I got in biology.

John Caher: Were those your major early role models, your parents?

Cynthia LaFave: Not my father because I don't remember ... I have three memories of my father because I was 6 when he was taken away to the hospital. I suppose my mother was a role model. She went to work every day and when she came home she expected dinner to be on the table, and she expected everything to be taken care of, so that was the role my sister and I took on. We cared for our three younger brothers.

My mother is a very good woman. It was very difficult for her because she had never written a check before my father died. She didn't understand a lot of it, so she was scared. Five kids between the ages of 1 and 9. That's a lot of responsibility, with not a lot of money.

She got married again. He was a very bad man. He was very abusive. That led me to ... I can skip right to the age of 14: I hitchhiked right out of town with a drug pusher and a sex worker because I wasn't going to stay there anymore.

I got to Utica. I somehow managed to get out of two very bad situations that night. I was hitchhiking to Watertown because the cops had come to one of the drug houses that I was at and said they were looking for me because they had somehow found that I had left with this woman. I managed to get back out onto Route 12. It was winter and it was raining and I was soaked. I said, "Well, they know I'm here, so if I go the other direction, if I go up to Watertown they won't find me there." The first car that pulled over was my mother and my stepfather. Unbelievable.

John Caher: By this time you're 14. I presume you're in high school?

Cynthia LaFave: I am. Well, supposed to be.

John Caher: From there, where'd you go to college?

Cynthia LaFave: I went to Brockport. I applied to one college. To me, it was like, okay, what am I going to do, I'm not staying here anymore, I can't stand it. I went to Brockport.

John Caher: To study what?

Cynthia LaFave: Creative Writing. I was working a lot with creative writing. Brockport changed my life. Brockport really changed my life.

John Caher: How?

Cynthia LaFave: I got there and I went into the English Department, and I said, "I want to write," and I walked around. They said, "Well, you need to talk to Stanley Rubin." I went to see this Professor Stanley Rubin, and he had a line outside of his office because the kids just adored him. I waited in line and when it was my turn, he said, "Okay, tell me about yourself." I said, "I said I want to write." He said, "I said tell me about yourself." I started and he said, "Hang on a minute," opened the door and told all the other kids to go home. He listened to me for a couple of hours, and he said, "Okay, I'm going to read your writing."

Cynthia LaFave: He spent so much time with my work. He would go through my writing and he would work on my writing with me, and he did all kinds of edits, and taught me how to write. He was so disappointed when I went to law school. He was devastated.

John Caher: Why law school?

Cynthia LaFave: Because a friend of mine was drunk, I was at a bar and-

John Caher: Because a friend of yours was drunk?

Cynthia LaFave: Yeah.

John Caher: That's not a real good reason to go to law school.

Cynthia LaFave: I know, but this guy was in a bar and he was a friend of mine, and I said, "What is the matter with you, Jay," because he was falling down drunk. He said, "I have to take the LSATs tomorrow." I said, "What are those?" He said, "Law School Admission Tests." I said, "You know, Jay, this is not good. You're not good. You're not going to do well. I'm going to take it with you and I'm going to bet you a pitcher of beer I beat you." Well, he's an accountant.

Through my time at Brockport, I ran the health fee boycott. It was a New York State SUNY boycott, and I would go from one administration building to the next until I took over all of the administration buildings. I was leading protests. I was always about regaining power. I didn't know it then. In retrospect, I can look

back and I was looking to gain power back, which had been taken away from me. I don't even know where I was going with that. I was running around New York State in my sophomore year. The health fee was $37.50. We set up protests because that money that they were calling the health fee was really going right to New York City because they were going bankrupt.

It wasn't going to our health and it wasn't going to our health services. We said if you're going to make us the leaders of the world you need to tell us the truth. I was doing all of this, and we won. They repealed the health fee. Then the Vice President for Student Affairs of Brockport, Dr. Patrick Smith, called me into his office and he said, "So, we have an overseas program." I said, "Well I haven't applied." He said, "Well, you've been accepted." They wanted to get rid of me, and they couldn't do it when I was on Dean's List and I was doing well with everything, and I was the editor of the newspaper. They just wanted to get rid of me because while I wasn't doing anything illegal, it wasn't really reflecting well on them that a Brockport student was going around SUNY and taking all kinds of liberties with things.

Judge Kretser: Agitator.

Cynthia LaFave: I was an agitator. I really was. They sent me over to Nottingham for a year. Then when I came back it took me four days to get elected Director of Communications, so now I had the T.V. station, the radio station, the newspaper, the Penny Saver, and the news at noon. I had all the media four days after I came back, so it didn't do them any good. Then my senior year the President of the college, Dr. Albert W. Brown, calls me into his office. He said, "I've never met anybody who should be a lawyer more than you, and I'm on the Board of Trustees of Syracuse University College of Law and I've already written a letter of recommendation for you."

I said, "I'm not going to law school," but then my friend gets drunk, I take the LSATs, I do well on the LSATs. It's a little seed growing in my head, so I did it. I didn't apply to another law school either. I applied to one college and one law school, and the law school was because Dr. Brown wrote a letter.

John Caher: Did you have an idea at that point what type of law you wanted to practice?

Cynthia LaFave: I wanted to be in a courtroom. I wanted to be in a courtroom. I wanted to represent people who couldn't represent themselves, who couldn't take care of themselves, who-

John Caher: We're getting back to that empowerment thing, aren't we?

Cynthia LaFave: Yes, yes!

John Caher: Did you recognize it at the time?

Cynthia LaFave: No. I don't think so. I know that I've always been really clear that I want to represent people who need a voice—whether that be people of a socio-economic disadvantage or people of privilege in particular situations, people of color or white folks. More often than not it is people from marginalized or disenfranchised communities. Ultimately, I want to represent people who need me and have real causes and claims. That was my agitator side I think, that I just needed to keep fighting for people.

John Caher: What was the environment like for women in law school around 1980?

Cynthia LaFave: I think women back then were expected to go into corporate or family law. Not many of them were looking at going into trial practice, negligence and things like that. But Mae D'Agostino was one year before me. I got to know Mae pretty well in law school and she really was somebody that I revered.

John Caher: What was the reaction of your family when you decided to go to law school?

Cynthia LaFave: I can't say they were surprised. I can't. I mean-

John Caher: Were they opposed or supportive or indifferent?

Cynthia LaFave: I think that I was so independent by that point that they just sort of said, "She's gonna do what she's gonna do."

John Caher: Then you get out in '81 you said, right?

Cynthia LaFave: Yes.

John Caher: How'd you get to Albany?

Cynthia LaFave: Oh my goodness, gracious. I was going to marry this guy, who I was going to marry because I was trying to get away from this other relationship.

John Caher: Presumably not the drunk accountant?

Cynthia LaFave: No, no. He got a job here, so I got a hold of Mae and said, "Hey, I'm going to move to Albany," because I told my fiancé wherever you get a job I'll get a job because I had that kind of confidence. Mae said, "Send me your resume and I'll give it to Mr. Jones" at Maynard, O'Connor & Smith. I got a job at Maynard, O'Connor & Smith.

John Caher: Doing what? What kind of law?

Cynthia LaFave: Defense. Medical malpractice defense. I worked for Mr. Murray and Roger Cusack and Mr. Jones. They were my bosses.

John Caher: How long were you there?

Cynthia LaFave: Eight months.

John Caher: Why did you leave? Let's back up, at Maynard, O'Connor & Smith at that time, were you and Mae the only females there?

Cynthia LaFave: I think so.

John Caher: Mae was probably the first, certainly the first partner.

Cynthia LaFave: I think so. I think we were the only women. I'm pretty sure we were.

John Caher: How were you treated by the men?

Cynthia LaFave: Good, except I was not paid worth a crap and I didn't really have an office. At one point, Mae, Tom Daley and I shared an office. It wasn't because I was a woman it was because they were totally out of space. They were a little bit tight with money, shall we say.

John Caher: Do you remember your starting salary?

Cynthia LaFave: Yeah. $12,500. I will never forget that. I was making more when I was working at the paper mill. I was a bartender. I worked at the paper mill. I worked as a grocery store clerk. I had all kinds of jobs when I was growing up.

John Caher: Did you leave Maynard, O'Connor & Smith because you didn't make any money?

Cynthia LaFave: No. I left there because somebody offered to double my salary.

John Caher: Where was that?

Cynthia LaFave: I was arguing in front of Judge Kahn and I had five motions for summary judgment and I won them all, and I did a pretty good job on the arguments, and this guy stops me and says, "Do you want to have a cup of coffee?" I said, "No." He said, "Well, I want to talk to you about a job." I said, "Well, I have a job." He said, "Well, I'm going to double your salary." I said, "Let's have coffee." It was Steve Spring. He was house counsel to Aetna at the time, so he hired me and he gave me $24,000 a year, which was a big bump, a really big bump.

John Caher: A hundred percent bump. How long were you at Aetna?

Cynthia LaFave: Three and a half years.

John Caher: What sort of defense work were you doing?

Cynthia LaFave: Mostly, I was doing auto personal lines. I would do slip and falls. I wasn't doing any med mal at that point, but I was doing a lot of whatever homeowners' policies would cover and auto policies.

John Caher: You were in court pretty early in your career?

Cynthia LaFave: I argued in the Appellate Division the day I was admitted.

John Caher: Wow.

Cynthia LaFave: Yes, because Maynard O'Connor had me ready to go that day. I went up and I argued in the Appellate Division that day. When I was with Aetna they had a pretty much “no pay” policy, so I was in court all the time. I had no idea what I was doing and didn't matter. Just went and did it. Taught me a lot.

John Caher: Who were your contemporaries in trial practice?

Cynthia LaFave: It was Mae, me, Maureen Bonanni, Susanna Martin. There were a lot of women, but they were all in defense firms, and I was too.

John Caher: What do you make of that? Coincidence or something else?

Cynthia LaFave: As a plaintiff's attorney, you have to be able to create business. You have to be able to make the business. As a defense attorney you don't necessarily have to do that.

John Caher: It comes to you.

Cynthia LaFave: Yeah. Yeah. As a defense attorney, certainly Aetna, whatever I was trying for them I was not bringing in the cases. I think it was a very chauvinistic system because I knew I could never go out and go to work for a firm and become an immediate trial lawyer, like I did when I went to Aetna. A plaintiff’s firm would never have let me do that. It would just have been impossible.

John Caher: Because you were too new or because you were a woman or both?

Cynthia LaFave: Both. It's not probably how I would recommend learning. I may not feel great about the fact that they were defense cases, but I did pretty good.

John Caher: So, three and a half years with Aetna. Then where?

Cynthia LaFave: Well, Aetna had this policy that we could practice on the side. Big mistake. I built a practice. I left Aetna with one of the guys that I was working with. We rented space on Broadway. We hired an associate and we bought a $25,000 computer, that's how much they cost at that point. We took out a loan for it. We did everything that we had to do, and the next week the guy comes in and says, "I can't do this. I have to have a paycheck." Didn't you think about that before? He left.

It was all on me then. I had an associate I had to pay. I mean that's crazy. That's insane. I had to pay the rent. I had to pay the insurance. I had to make sure

everything got paid. He just walked out. He left. I never got a penny from him, and I never tried because I figured, "Well, okay, I'm just going to do it then." I was tied to a number of things at that point that had cost a lot of money.

Judge Kretser: It was very brave is what it was.

Cynthia LaFave: You know what, I just did it. I mean at that point what are you going to do? I was going into town courts. I was doing night stuff. I was doing matrimonials. I was doing whatever I could get. Anybody that would pay me a dollar I was getting the dollars. I rented out rooms in my house because I had bought a house. Three guys, each had a bedroom, and I was getting rent for that. I ran for town judge because I needed the salary to make sure my business was going to be able to float.

John Caher: How difficult was it to build a practice as a woman lawyer at this time?

Cynthia LaFave: The first guy I ever represented for Aetna hired me as his consult. He owned a business, a plumbing business. He then had me do all of his work. When you're in the trades they talk to each other, so I got a lot of trade work. Then they gave me their divorces, because they're always getting divorced, too, and I did all of that. I was building a business.

John Caher: At this point, are you concentrating on P.I. work or what?

Cynthia LaFave: I wanted to be, but I was doing whatever I could get. I just did whatever I could get. Anybody that'd pay me I would do what they wanted. I'd learn it. I really wanted to be doing P.I. work. In 1989, I got my first million-dollar verdict and the next day I went back to the office and I said, "We're going to close out all the files except the P.I." From that day forward I've only done P.I. work.

John Caher: You must've been the first woman-owned P.I. firm in town, right?

Cynthia LaFave: I'm sure. Yeah. I'm sure.

John Caher: Now, how were you treated in court? Were any judges particularly supportive or particularly unsupportive of women in the courtroom?

Cynthia LaFave: I don't know that I had a particularly hard time with any of the judges. They were pretty good to me. I was already prepared. To a judge, I think it's really important that somebody comes in prepared. I was a little bit of a firecracker. I mean I'd argue and argue and argue.

Judge Kretser: I think maybe they didn't want to take you on. You are a firecracker.

Cynthia LaFave: They just let me do my thing. Some of the judges were really supportive. They wanted to see women succeed and they wanted to see me succeed. It was great.

John Caher: There weren't any real gender diversity issues in the courtroom?

Cynthia LaFave: More the lawyers. I'd walk into depositions and they'd try to push me around. Well that wouldn't last long. I wasn't going to have that.

I was in a courtroom a year ago. I came in and I was trying the case with a guy from Ithaca, and he is a good friend of mine, but we were going to jointly try the case. I introduced myself to the defense attorney and the defense attorney said, "I only talk to trial counsel." I was like, "Really?" I'm so glad we won that case. After we tried the whole case he couldn't stop talking to me.

The judges were pretty supportive, and they could see ... as a judge, you know what lawyers are doing. You know who's doing their homework and who's not, and who's always going to tell you the truth.

Judge Kretser: Private clubs. Mae mentioned that a lot of business was done in private clubs. Of course, she wasn't able to join in that. Did you have that problem?

Cynthia LaFave: Judge Prior asked me to join the University Club. I said, "Why?", he said, "Because we need some women." I joined the University Club and I hated it. I hated it. I couldn't get out of there fast enough. I mean I'm a rough rider. I wasn't born with any silver spoons.

You see, my clients wouldn't have come from a place like that anyway. I'm a plaintiff's attorney. I don't need to talk to anybody who owns an insurance company or is some kind of big claims manager. All I need is for the people who need me to know I'm here. To me, I didn't care. I hated those clubs. I thought they were terrible. I'd go home, get on my horse, and take a ride through the woods.

John Caher: I think you are responsible for certainly the largest at the time, maybe largest ever, but very close to $100 million dollar verdict. What was that case?

Cynthia LaFave: That case was the highest personal injury verdict in the United States that year. It was published as that, and that surprised me because I didn't know.

Cynthia LaFave: It's a horrible case. The client was a very powerful woman and I have undying respect for her because her father had been raping her since she was about 4 years old. He was a Colonie cop and he was constantly abusing her. He would come home, and he would take his gun out of his belt, and he would spin it on his ... he built this little, I don't know, shrine to himself and he'd keep the gun there facing everybody and say, "Now, we're all gonna do what dad says tonight." He continued to rape her for years. She came to me and said, "I need to do this." I said, "Well, you can be Jane Doe and nobody will know who you are."

She goes, "No, I am going to speak out loud." When the verdict came in, I told her you don't have to talk — the press was all there and everything. I said, "You don't have to go on camera." She goes, "Oh, I'm going on camera." She was a very powerful person. Her father, he was always going from state to state because I kept moving the judgment from state to state, and taking some of his money. We'd get $50, $100, I didn't care. I was going to make his life miserable, and I just kept following him around. We just kept getting what we could out of him.

John Caher: We're back to where this all started with empowering powerless people. Right?

Judge Kretser: Yeah. Big time.

John Caher: You always connected with the community as well—Albany County Bar Association, State Bar, Academy of Trial Lawyers. I know you've written and lectured a lot. You were town judge, of course, as you mentioned. You've been very active in the Humane Society. Do you think it's especially important to a woman lawyer to network?

Cynthia LaFave: I think it's especially important to anyone whose life has been good to them to give back. I think it's really important to do that. I think you have to give back. Whether that's supporting a party in politics, or whether that's supporting the animals at the Humane Society, or whether that's supporting young lawyers as they're learning to be lawyers, you have to do it. It isn't right not to. If life's been good to you, you need to pass that on. That's really important to do.

John Caher: Has the environment and the climate changed for women since you began practicing?

Cynthia LaFave: Yes.

John Caher: Was there a turning point or just kind of evolutionary?

Cynthia LaFave: There are a lot of very, very powerful, very, very good female lawyers out there now.

I would always go into depositions and it would always be me and the guys, me and the guys, me and the guys. Now, it's all women. I walk in and it's women, women, women. The climate has changed because there's very clearly respect for anybody who's doing a really good job. I think that gender has become something in the backseat. It's not upfront anymore. It's not, "Wow, she's a great female lawyer." It's, "She knows what she's doing." That's a big deal. It's a big deal because it was always harder as a woman. It was always harder as a woman. You had to ignore it because if you didn't you were doing a disservice to yourself.

John Caher: What do you want the coming generations to know about what it was like back in the day and what their obligations are going forward?

Cynthia LaFave: The world is a changing place and all of us are given the opportunity to make those changes good or bad. You have to take on that responsibility, especially if you're going to do things that are going to affect other people. What they need to know is don't ever be stuck in the status quo. Realize that you can change the world and do it. Have a voice, speak loud, be part of change for the better.

Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair; Hon. Tatiana Coffinger, Vice Chair; Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq., Vice Chair

Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair

Members: Hon. Tatiana Coffinger, Hamilton County Multi-Bench Judge, Vice Chair; Elena Jaffe Tastensen, Esq., Private Attorney, Saratoga County, Vice Chair

Counties served: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: No in person meetings; communication via email due to distance
Do you use Videoconferencing? No

2019 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month
Fulton County: March 30, 2019; "Votes For Women", a one hour play about the struggle for women's rights, sponsored by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium (see attached flyer).

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- Fulton County, October 2019: Proclamation by Board of Supervisors; October 24, 2019: "Wear Purple Day" and "Domestic Violence Awareness Walk", sponsored by Family Counseling Center and Fulton County DV Task Force (see attached news article).
- St. Lawrence County, October 24, 2019: "Wear Purple Day", sponsored by Renewal House (see attached article).

Other Special Events or Activities

- Montgomery County, January 2019: Human Trafficking Presentation to Amsterdam High School students, sponsored by the Montgomery County Youth Bureau.
- Fulton County, February 7, 2019: Book Reading, "Before They Were Our Mothers: Voices of Women Born Before Rosie Started Riveting", sponsored by Johnstown Senior Center (see attached news clipping).
- Fulton County, April 11, 2019: Tree Ribbon Ceremony for National Crime Victims' Rights Week, sponsored by Fulton County District Attorney's Office (see attached flyer).
- Fulton County, March 2019: Human Trafficking Presentation, sponsored by Soroptimist International (see attached news article).
- St. Lawrence County, April 24, 2019: "Denim Day", sponsored by Renewal House (see attached article).
- Saratoga County, May 1, 2019: Human Trafficking Presentation, sponsored by "Eyes Wide Open" and Galway Lions Club (see attached news article).

- Fulton County, May 14, 2019: "Seneca Falls, Was It the Beginning of the Women's Suffrage Movement?", discussion sponsored by Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Assn (See attached flyer).
- Fulton County, June 9, 2019: "Opera at the Orchard", fundraiser for clothing store for women re-entering the workforce (see attached article).
- Montgomery County, July 2019: Essay Contest, sponsored by AAUW (see attached news article).
- Fulton County, August 25, 2019: Garden Party, benefit for Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Assn (See attached article).
- Fulton County, August 27, 2019: "Equality and Ice Cream", documentary for Equal Rights Amendment, sponsored by Women Democrats Organization (see attached news article).
- Saratoga County: September 24, 2019: "National Voter Registration Day", training sessions for volunteers to register new voters, sponsored by League of Women Voters (See attached flyer).
- Fulton County, October 12, 2019: "Women and Bicycling", lecture, sponsored by Fulton County Tourism Dept. (see attached news article).
- Saratoga County, November 14, 2019: Domestic Violence Clinic Presentation and Training, sponsored by Adirondack Women's Bar Assn (see attached flyer).

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended? Varies depending on event from 12 - 150

Was there any press before or after? Yes

Future Plans

Meetings dates for planned or projected events for 2020:
No meetings planned yet as committee composition is changing, with a new chair expected

Special Events & Educational Programs
Events in Fulton County during Summer of 2020 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote, to include: A Women's Symposium, March 28, 2020; Statue Unveiling, Summer 2020, statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton; "Ride the Women's Revolution" bicycle ride to Seneca Falls, August 2020

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020? Childcare for litigants while in court; sensitivity training on trans-gender persons in the courts.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and Supervised Visitation. There are no childcare facilities in any of our courts, which disproportionately affects women litigants. There is a scarcity of organizations offering supervised visitation.

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes. Gender-sensitivity training for trans -gender and gender-transitioning people in the court system, including litigants, witnesses and jurors.

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? Gender-sensitivity training

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations, Domestic Violence Organizations, and women's groups

Celebrating Women's Suffrage 1848 to 1920

Sponsored By The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium

In Honor of Women's History Month

Saturday March 30th 2019 1-2 PM

Followed by Discussion & Refreshments Donations Accepted

At the Newly Renovated Gloversville Carnegie Library
58 East Fulton St, Gloversville, NY 12078

1 Hour Play Featuring

Kim Harvish- Moderator & Glens Falls Chapman Museum Educator

Sandi Rhodes- portrays Eva King (a Glens Falls suffragist)

Patricia Dolton (expert in suffrage music) leads songs

Frieda Toth portrays Lucy Price, an anti-suffragist from Ohio who spoke in Glens Falls

Learn the issues at stake in the long nationwide struggle for women's rights

Learn how local women (suffragists and anti-suffragists) participated

This program is organized by the Chapman Historical Museum in Glens Falls

Please RSVP to Helen Martin martart@nycap.rr.com or 518-762-7638

County raises DV awareness

By MICHAEL ANICH
The Leader-Herald

JOHNSTOWN – The Fulton County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday issued a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the county.

Oppenheim Supervisor Cynthia Breh read the proclamation approved by the board at the County Office Building.

The proclamation notes that domestic violence affects all New Yorkers and "far too many people suffer abuse at the hands of a spouse or partner."

"Domestic violence victims can be of any age, race, religion, or economic status and the resulting damage is inflicted not only on victims, but their children, families and communities," the proclamation stated. "Fulton County's commitment to ending domestic violence is exemplified by the work of county agencies and their employees that are assisting victims and their families. The Board of Supervisors recognizes the outstanding work of the region's dedicated not-for-profit organizations that serve victims and their communities."

In issuing the proclamation, the board encouraged "all county residents to participate in community awareness events" this month.

"The Board of Supervisors joins with all citizens to support victims of domestic violence and to support the work of victim advocates, public and private entities and many others who have worked tirelessly to bring hope to the millions of individuals, families and communities harmed by crime," the proclamation says.

The Gloversville-based Family Counseling Center and the Fulton County Domestic Violence Task Force are recognizing the special month by conducting a National Domestic Violence Awareness Walk, Wear Purple Day at 3 p.m. Oct. 24 starting at the HFM Prevention Council parking lot on Briggs Street. Light refreshments will be available.

Officials said there will be a brief ceremony, followed by the walk. The walk will follow along Briggs Street to the corner of Route 30A. The gathering will cross the street to the opposite side of the Arterial Highway, walk to the intersection on East Main Street, then back on to the arterial on the opposite side of the highway to the HFM Prevention Council. There is no rain date.

The Leader-Herald/Michael Anich

Oppenheim Supervisor Cynthia Breh reads a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Fulton County passed by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday at the County Office Building in Johnstown.

Michael Anich covers Johnstown and Fulton County news. He can be reached at manich@leaderherald.com.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month in New York State and across the nation.

It is a time for collective action, a time for communities to unite and mourn those who have died as a result of abuse, celebrate those who have survived, connect those who work to end violence, and raise public awareness about domestic violence.

This year, the national **Wear Purple Day is Thursday, October 24th.** You can wear purple any day during the month, or all month long! Please tell people why ending domestic violence is important to you. You could even turn it into a fundraiser for Renewal House. Please join us in any way you can. Tell us (Renewal House) what you're doing by posting on our Facebook page or send us an email at renewalhouse@verizon.net. You could be helping to save a life. Don't fail to act!

Renewal House will have information tables set up during the month at: Department of Social Services, in the County Court House lobby and at Community Bank, Main Street in Canton.

Annual Dinner—October 16th, *with Silent Auction fundraiser*

We invite the community to join us on **Wednesday, October 16th** at the Gran-View Restaurant in Ogdensburg for our annual recognition dinner.

Cocktails will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Our program, **Creating Hope for the Future,** will immediately follow.

The cost is $50 per plate and the entree choices are:

Prime Rib

Roasted Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken

Broiled Seafood Platter (shrimp, sea scallops and haddock)

Vegetarian (grilled confit portabella mushroom or a pasta dish)

Please let us know your dinner choice when you reserve your seat.

Guest speaker: Lillian M Moy

Lillian M Moy has been the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York since 1995. She is a 1974 graduate of Hunter College of the City University of New York and a 1981 graduate of Boston University School of Law. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Albany Medical Center and a past Board member of CARES and the Homeless and Travelers Aid Society.

Ms. Moy is a nationally recognized leader, writer and trainer in the civil legal aid community. Her particular areas of expertise are leadership development and diversity. She is past Chair of the NLADA's Civil Policy Group and a former member of the Board of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. Ms. Moy is Chair of the ABA's Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice and is a past member of the ABA's SCLAID, Pro Bono and Public Service Committee, and the Legal Access Job Corps Task Force. She also serves on several NYSBA committees and is a former member of the Pride Center of the Capital Region's Governance Committee.

Ms. Moy has been honored by the National Organization of Legal Services Workers, the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Asian American Bar Association of New York, the Schenectady County Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association and the Catholic Charities Housing Office. Lillian was the recipient of the New York State Bar Association's Diversity Trailblazer Award for 2013. Lillian lives in Albany, New York, and has two daughters and a newly born granddaughter.

Honoree: Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

In the fall of 2002, Renewal House was invited to become a partner with the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY along with the advocacy group in Clinton and Essex Counties. We then became a partner with several other agencies in the northeast region. Of course there was funding attached to this wonderful partnership and opportunity through the Legal Assistance for Victims' Grant Program. We agreed to provide outreach and referrals to Legal Aid to increase the availability of quality representation for victims of domestic violence and stalking. We have been a partner ever since.

In 2018, agencies across the state that have existing contracts with the NYS Office of Victims Services were given the opportunity to apply for funding in support of Attorney Services. Renewal House was awarded a contract. Legal Aid became a sub-contractor to Renewal House staffing an attorney who is available to represent crime victims for the next 5 years! One hundred percent of this attorney's time will be providing free legal services for crime victims who seek services at Renewal House.

Renewal House will honor Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York for its role in providing free civil legal services to victims in St. Lawrence County and for Creating Hope for the Future.

Please RSVP by October 10th.

If you are interested in **reserving a table of 8**, please call or email Ilene at 315-379-9845 or renewalhouse@verizon.net

A **silent auction** will be taking place throughout the evening. Remember, **this is a fundraising event**!

Renewal House accepts cash or checks only.

Adopt a Family during the Holiday Season. Call 315-379-9845 for details.

BEFORE THEY WERE OUR MOTHERS

The Leader-Herald/Ashley Onyon

Constance Dodge reads "Horse Thief," her contribution to "Before They Were Our Mothers: Voices of Women Born Before Rosie Started Riveting," an anthology of 15 women sharing personal histories of world events as seen through their foremothers' eyes. Dodge and several of the local authors featured in the anthology participated in a reading at the Johnstown Senior Center on Thursday.

2-9-19

The Fulton County District Attorney's Office and Crime Victim Services Program cordially invites you to attend a tree ribbon ceremony in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2019. This ceremony is an event for the awareness week honoring those affected by crime. Attendees are invited to tie colored ribbons on our Tree of Hope to represent themselves or others who have been impacted by crime.

Ribbons will be provided

Location: Fulton County Office Building
223 W. Main St, Johnstown, NY 12095
In front of the Tree of Hope

Date: Thursday April 11, 2019

Time: 3:30 pm

COME RAIN OR SHINE

Speaker brings attention to human trafficking

JOHNSTOWN – Melissa Geier, community programs director and staff trainer at the Mental Health Association in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, was the speaker for the March gathering of Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties about the danger and extent of human trafficking, according to a news release.

Speaking at Fox Run Golf Club, members heard that the extent of human trafficking is far greater than people generally think and, while human trafficking is a worldwide issue, its existence reaches to New York state and the counties of Fulton and Montgomery.

A brochure – provided by Geier – stated that the problem impacts "21 million men, women and children worldwide." While this is surprising to many, "…between 2001 and 2012 … New York was 1 of 4 states generating greater potential reports of human trafficking," it stated.

Geier talked about how to recognize potential victims, how to report a tip 24/7 to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888, or by texting 'help' to BeFree (2333733), and, more particularly, about the signs that may be indicate someone may be a victim of human slavery and may be in danger of being coerced, defrauded or otherwise compelled into slavery for sexual exploitation, slave labor or domestic servitude.

While the average age of a person's first victimization is 13, those most at risk are 18 years old and younger, she said. They may be enslaved by force, coercion, trick or false friendship on the streets, over the internet, at private residences, clubs, and massage parlors, among other places.

Traffickers may not be strangers, Geier warned, – they may be seen as family members, caregivers, acquaintances, employers, friends, boyfriends or caring strangers.

Photo submitted

Melissa Geier, community programs director and staff trainer at the Mental Health Association in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, was the speaker for the March gathering of Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties about the danger and extent of human trafficking, according to a news release.

While one "red flag" may not be a sign of actual abuse, she said, an informed group may be able to tie together other signs that may lead to the uncovering of someone being subjected to human trafficking. Awareness factors include recognition of someone living at a workplace; becoming secretive or adopting an unexplained change of lifestyle or having an unusual amount of cash; being in a dominating relationship; never being alone or having someone answering for them; being anxious, fearful or paranoid; avoiding eye contact; working long hours; and/or being paid below the minimum wage or not being paid at all.

Geier encouraged the Soroptimist members to be aware of the people and situations around them. She said that if it is perceived that someone is in danger do not interfere, but rather, call 911, as intervention could further endanger the victim or yourself. You may also contact cybertipline.com or call 1-800-843-5678.

Upcoming Events

National Volunteer Week - April 7—13, 2019

Thank you to all the volunteers who give their time to provide support to the organizations they choose to serve!

Denim Day is Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Join us as we celebrate Denim Day and the fact that clothing is NEVER AN EXCUSE for sexual assault.

Why denim? Whether a person's jeans are baggy, tight, skinny, full of holes, short, long, bootcut, jeggings, or leggings, there is NEVER AN EXCUSE for sexual assault.

The History of Denim Day

Denim Day grew out of a 1998 Italian Supreme Court decision that overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans.

An 18-year old girl is picked up by her married, 45-year old driving instructor for her very first lesson. He takes her to an isolated road, pulls her out of the car, wrestles her out of one leg of her jeans, and forcefully rapes her. Threatened with death if she tells anyone, he makes her drive the car home.

Later that night she tells her parents, and they help and support her to press charges. The perpetrator gets arrested and is prosecuted. He is convicted of rape and sentenced to jail.

He appeals the sentence. The case makes it all the way to the Italian Supreme Court. Within a matter of days the case against the driving instructor is overturned, dismissed, and the perpetrator released. In a statement by the Chief Judge, he argued, "because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex."

Enraged by the verdict, within a matter of hours, the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate action and protested by wearing jeans to work. This call to action motivated and emboldened the California Senate and Assembly to do the same. People all over the world were outraged, and wearing jeans became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes and myths surrounding sexual assault.

Denim Day is a symbolic gesture of how a community can help change perceptions about violence against women, men and children.

We are asking community members, elected officials, business people and students to make a statement by wearing jeans on April 24th as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault.

You may even consider charging your employees each $5 to wear denim on Wednesday, April 24th as a donation to Renewal House to support victim services.

Music and Arts Festival - Sunday, June 9, 2019

This year's Music and Arts Festival will be held from Noon—6pm on Sunday, June 9th at Bella Brooke Vineyard, 2989 County Route 6, Hammond.

The cost is $5 per person, 12 and under are free. This is a family event, rain or shine. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy food, entertainment and the arts and crafts available for purchase.

Nick Rycroft, members of Uprooted! and Moura will be performing.

We have added an inflatable obstacle course, through Seaway Valley Jumpers, for children to enjoy.

Thank you to North Country Savings Bank for sponsoring our event this year! All proceeds will assist the victims/survivors we serve.

Wish List—items needed

Needs for Safe Dwelling:

Bath Towels, Wash Cloths
Dish Towels, Dish Cloths
Blankets (Twin)
Bedding (Twin)
Pillows
Crib Bedding – for 2 cribs
Food – nonperishable items
Household Supplies and Paper Products (including flashlights and batteries)

On-going items:

Paper Products (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)

Toiletries (shampoo, lotion, soap, conditioner, etc.)

Baby Items (diapers, clothing, etc.)

Cleaning and Laundry Supplies (bathroom and kitchen cleaners, brooms, and mops, detergent, dryer sheets, trash bags, etc.)

Additional Items (bedding all sizes, towels, dishes, cookware, utensils, light bulbs, trash bags, etc.)

Activities for Children: Crafts, Children's Books, School Supplies, Puzzles and Games for all ages

Over the counter medications (please be sure to check the expiration date)

4/29/19

Human trafficking talk at Lioness Club

GALWAY – Deb Fowler from Eyes Wide Open in Schenectady will speak about human trafficking at the Galway Lioness Club Of Lions District 20W monthly dinner meeting on Wednesday at the Galway Lions Club building, East Street. Dinner will be begin promptly at 7 p.m.

Eyes Wide Open is nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing awareness of the realities of human trafficking in area communities.

Nonperishable food will be collected to benefit the Food Pantry of the Greater Galway Community Services Association.

The May Lioness board meeting will be held immediately after the dinner meeting. Committee reports will be shared and the upcoming events will be discussed.

From: "Lindsay M. Hinkle" <lindsaymhinkle@gmail.com>
Date: April 15, 2019 at 10:20:40 AM EDT
To: undisclosed-recipients:;
Subject: Don't Miss Your ESCHA Annual Meeting and Program - RSVP Required

Valued ECSHA Members:

Spring brings our ESCHA Annual Meeting, election of officers and a special program.

SENECA FALLS, WAS IT THE BEGINNING OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT?

Presented by: DR. JUDITH WELLMAN, educator, author, lecturer and Stanton expert

Judith Wellman is Principal Investigator, Historical New York Research Associates, and Professor Emerita, State University of New York at Oswego where she taught from 1972 to 2010. Currently, she serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Collaborative for Women's History sites.

Join us for this wonderful opportunity to hear from a leading Stanton scholar!

DATE: Tuesday, May 14, 2019

PLACE: Fulton-Montgomery Community College, The Allen House (on campus), 2805 Highway 67, Johnstown, NY

TIME: 5:00 PM Annual Members' Meeting and Board Elections with Dinner
7:00 PM Guest Speaker and Program, Open and Free to the Public

DINNER COST: $15.00/person and includes: Garden Salad, Rolls, Grilled Marinated Chicken Breasts, Grilled Vegetable Medley, Rice Pilaf, Desserts, and Beverage.

PROGRAM COST: FREE

RSVP by Monday, May 6 by sending a $15.00 check payable to ECSHA to: ESCHA, PO Box 753, Johnstown, NY 12095

9-19-19

2019 AAUW Dorthy Wemple Literary Award winners named

AMSTERDAM – The Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of the American Association of University Women has announced the winners of the 2019 AAUW Dorothy Wemple Literary Award.

This year both first and second place went to Amsterdam High School graduates: the first place award of $500 went to Haley Salisbury, and the second place award of $300 to Ivy Dulysz.

Those entering the contest wrote an essay answering the question, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton was, what we call today, an activist. There were several issues she could have chosen to champion – slavery, temperance, and women's rights and suffrage, among them. She chose women's rights and suffrage. Today, the issues have changed. Some of our issues now are nuclear armament, global warming/climate change, and refugee/illegal immigration issues, among others. If you chose to follow Elizabeth's example and become an activist, what issue would you choose, and why?" Entrants were not limited to the issues above, but chose any issue that they felt strongly about. The essays were not judged by the field chosen but on the thought process and English usage.

Salisbury wrote about child exploitation and human trafficking. She will be attending Union College in Schenectady.

Dulysz wrote about children with special needs. She currently volunteers with them. She will be attending Nazareth College in Pittsford.

The contest is open to students in Fulton, Montgomery and Hamilton counties.

The AAUW Literary Award is given annually in memory of Dorothy Anderson Wemple who was a member of AAUW for more than 50 years and a member of the local AAUW branch since its inception in 1967. Wemple, who died in 2007, was an English teacher at Knox Junior High School in Johnstown and was a past judge for the essay contest, which began in 1991.

Jahnn Gibson and Linda Hammond served as chairwomen of the AAUW High School Literary Award. Readers included Gibson and Paula Lerner.

AAUW is an organization of college graduates whose mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association

The Sunflower

August 2019
Volume 6, Issue 1

Opera at the Orchard: A Grand Success

ECSHA Officers and Board Members:

Nancy Brown and Bonnie Valachovic, Co-Chairs

Anne Campos, Secretary

Barbara Taylor, Treasurer
Anne Niles, Co-Treasurer

Kate Ehle
Sandy Fiesinger, Sunflower Shoppe Manager
Jennifer Gardella
Beth Haggerty
Lindsay Hinkle, Newsletter

Special Assignments:

Lauren Draus, Website and Facebook
Katy Grady, Historian
Linda Hinkle, Graphic Design

On Sunday, June 9 from 3:00-5:00 p.m., the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association presented its second annual "Opera at the Orchard" fundraiser for our Sunflower Shoppe. The event took place at Rogers Family Orchards in Johnstown and more than $2,000 was raised!

Artists from Seagle Music Colony in Schroon Lake, the oldest summer vocal training program in the U.S., donated their time and talent and sang a program of opera and musical theater favorites to an enthusiastic crowd of more than 75. Mello Dogs served delicious hot dogs and Rogers Cideryard sold their signature hard cider, along with wine and beer selections.

It was a wonderful afternoon of perfect weather, beautiful music and great food in a gorgeous setting. A great time was had by all!

2019 ECSHA Garden Party

We are delighted to announce that this year's Equality Award recipient is our own Linda Hinkle! Please join us in celebrating Linda on Sunday, August 25, 2019 from 4-6 pm, at the beautiful home of Lori and Joe Salamack at 606 S. William St., Johnstown, NY. This delightful and relaxing event is catered by Union Hall. There will be a cash bar and tickets are $30 per person.

So our count is accurate, we ask that you reserve your ticket by sending a check made out to ECSHA and sending it to:

ECSHA
P.O. Box 753
Johnstown, NY 12095

Please send your RSVP no later than August 20, 2019. We hope you will join us for a lovely evening honoring a very special woman.

Our Sunflower Shoppe

Now open five days a week, the Sunflower Shoppe continues to grow and serve women and girls in the area. Here is a look at a busy 2019.

Women from the Guardian House (homeless female veterans) in Ballston Spa, Haven of Hope in Fonda and Family Counseling were once again welcomed this year for refreshments and shopping sprees. Jackets and coats were sent to RISSE (Refugee Immigrant Support Services) and sweaters and pants to Wells House in Johnstown.

A record number of prom gowns were both sold and rented from the new Eileen and Elizabeth's Prom Closet located at the Sunflower Shoppe. Workers helped turn our back room into a place fit for a princess. Thanks to all who helped with the room decoration especially Bonnie Valachovic, Nancy Brown, Brett Beers, Tom Baird, Holly Thompson, the Yellow Roses from Fonda Fultonville High School (FFHS) and Lance Lord, who survived the pink paint. Anna Holland, prom closet coordinator, worked with models in January at a FFHS fashion show and held an event at the Sunflower Shoppe in

Continued on page 2

League to register voters on Sept. 24

By **Wendy Liberatore** on September 10, 2019 at 10:13 PM

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, with the Adirondack Women's Bar Association, will participate in National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, Sept. 24, by registering voters in 32 locations throughout the Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties.

The locations are:

Ballston Spa library, 10 a.m. to noon, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Bolton Landing library, 4 to 7 p.m.
Burnt Hills Community library, noon to 5:30 p.m.
Cambridge library, 1 to 5 p.m.
Corinth library, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Corinth YMCA, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Clifton Park-Halfmoon library, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Galway library, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Glens Falls Crandall library, 3 to 7 p.m.
Greenwich library, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Lake Luzerne library, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Malta YMCA, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Mechanicville library, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Milton Mr. Bill's Mill Creek, 5 to 9 p.m.
Queensbury Aviation Mall, 3 to 7 p.m.
SUNY Adirondack, Queensbury, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Wal-mart, Queensbury, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Salem Town Clerk's office, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saratoga Springs, Bowtie Criterion Cinemas, 4 to 8 p.m.
Saratoga Springs, Fingerpaint Marketing, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saratoga Springs, Jefferson Terrace, 5 to 9 p.m.
Saratoga Springs library, 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Saratoga Springs, Planned Parenthood, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saratoga Springs, Salvation Army, 7 to 9:30 a.m.
Saratoga Springs, YMCA, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Saratoga Hospital, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saratoga Springs Skidmore College, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Schuylerville library, 10 a.m. to noon and 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Stillwater library, 10 a.m. to 8:15 p.m.
Waterford library, noon to 4:30 p.m.
Wilton, SUNY Adirondack, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wilton, YMCA, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Partner organizations will coordinate hundreds of National Voter Registration Day events nationwide and leverage #NationalVoterRegistrationDay in all social media platforms to drive attention to voter registration and the midterm elections.

The effort's website, www.NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org, provides a listing of National Voter Registration Day events across the country.

Founded in 2012, National Voter Registration Day is designed to create an annual moment when the entire nation focuses on registering Americans to exercise their most basic right – the right to vote. More than 2 million Americans have registered to vote on this day since the inaugural National Voter Registration Day.

National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 24, 2019
12:00 AM – 11:59 PM

National Voter Registration Day is celebrated on the fourth Tuesday of every September to focus attention on the importance of registering to vote. The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County has participated in this effort since 2012.

'Equality and Ice Cream' scheduled

JOHNSTOWN – "Equality and Ice Cream" will be the theme of the documentary "Legalize Equality" by Kamila Lopez on Sept. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Johnstown Area Community Center, sponsored by the Women Democrats Organization.

Sundaes will also be served to honor the #iscream4equality campaign going on now in Virginia until Nov. 4. That campaign hopes to turn a seat in the that state's senate and allow Virginia to be the 38th and final state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Lopez's 30-minute film will be followed by a 10-minute video that details the history of the amendment. The ERA is a 24-word statement introduced to Congress in 1923 by Alice Paul: "Equality of right under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by a state on account of sex."

The Women Democrats are a member of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Womens' Consortium, and this program is one of others this year celebrating the upcoming 100-year anniversary of women in the United States gaining the right to vote in 1920.

Jennifer Garren is the chairwoman of the Sept. 12 program.

To RSVP, email Catherine Julius at cm78julius@gmail.com by Sept. 9.

8/27/19

Lecture on women and bicycling set for Saturday at Johnson Hall

JOHNSTOWN – Johnson Hall State Historic Site, 139 Hall Ave., will host a lecture on the history of women and bicycling at 1 p.m. Saturday in the site's center hall.

Kjirsten Gustavson will present "Woman on a Wheel," a program that will celebrate both the bicycle and the spirit of women's independence.

During the late 1890s, bicycles changed the popular notion of what American femininity could be. Thousands of women in New York state and beyond began to challenge their bodies in ways never acceptable before. They adopted new clothing reforms and gained new independence with unfettered travel and even mechanical training. Susan B. Anthony once said of the bicycle, "I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives women a feeling of freedom and self-reliance."

Gustavson has developed educational programs for the state Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation since 2005, including lectures on historic underwear, theatrical programs, and festivals.. She holds a masters degree in history museum studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program.

Seating is limited. Although free of charge, donations to support the event will be greatly appreciated. Due to the lecture, public tours of Johnson Hall will be given at 10 a.m., 11a.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. only on that day.

This is a Path Through History Weekend event, held in conjunction with the Bicycle Through History event organized by the Fulton County Tourism Department.

10/10/19

ADIRONDACK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLINIC PRESENTATION AND TRAINING & MEMBERSHIP MIXER

Thursday, November 14, 2019
5:30 – 7:30 PM

THE BISTRO

Saratoga

Thirsty Owl Outlet & Wine Garden
184 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY

Interested in volunteering at our Legal Clinic to Aid Survivors of Domestic Violence, but not sure what it's all about?
Looking to catch up with friends after a busy summer?
Thinking about joining AWBA but want to learn more and meet some of our members?

Join us on November 14 for a presentation about our legal clinic, with training by attorneys from Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York on common clinic legal questions (5:30 PM), to be followed by a membership mixer (6:30 PM).

Cost: $30/per person
Includes training, drink ticket and light fare.

Not an AWBA member? Sign up at the event and it's on us! Your AWBA membership gives you membership in the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and allows you to volunteer at our clinic.

RSVP to Maggie Stephenson mstephenson@dowlinglawny.com
no later than November 7, 2019
Checks made payable to "AWBA"

Fifth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair

Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas, JSC, Chair

Members: See attached list

Counties served: Onondaga, Oneida, Oswego, Jefferson, Herkimer, Lewis

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: NA

2019 Special Events

Special Events or Activities

If Not Now, When: ADR in the Federal and State Courts
Attendance: 100
How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email, Mail, and Co-Sponsors
Was there press before or after? Yes

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020: April, June, October

Special Events & Educational Programs
Discrimination in the Courts - A Forum
We intend to hold a program in at least four of the six counties in the district addressing discrimination in the courts. The program will be for the public, attorneys and court personnel. We hope to be able to learn what issues exist so we can work with attorneys and administration to correct them. We were unable to conduct this program in 2019 as planned.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020? Discrimination; stress management; bullying; domestic violence

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers; Supervised Visitation; Breastfeeding Space; Flexible Scheduling

Do you see unmet training needs? Computer training
What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? Recognizing Implicit Bias

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations

WOMEN IN THE COURT COMMITTEE
Membership List 2020

Christine M. Barry, Esq.
Support Magistrate
Oneida County Family Court
Oneida County Courthouse
200 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
cbarry@nycourts.gov

Hon. Bernadette Clark
Oneida County Courthouse
200 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
btclark@nycourts.gov

Annalise M. Dykas, Esq.
Associate Court Attorney
Oswego County Family Court
39 Churchill Road
Oswego, NY 13126
amdykas@nycourts.gov

Bonnie Gail Levy, Esq.
New York State Attorney General's Office
Syracuse Regional Office
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204-2410
Bonnie.Levy@AG.NY.gov

Maureen Maney, Esq.
Green & Reid
173 Intrepid Lane
Syracuse, NY 13205
mmaney@greenereid.com

Hon. Charles C. Merrell
Lewis County Courthouse
7660 N. State Street
Lowville, NY 13367
cmerrell@nycourts.gov

Timothy J. Fennell, Esq.
Amdursky, Pelky, Fennell & Wallen, PC
26 E. Oneida St.
Oswego, NY 13126
tfennell@apflaw.com

Cindy Granger, Esq.
Karp Law Offices
428 South Main Street
North Syracuse, NY 13212
cgranger @karp-law.com

Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas
Onondaga County Courthouse, Rm. 401
401 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
dkaralun@nycourts.gov

Hon. Michelle Pirro-Bailey
Family Court Justice
Onondaga County Courthouse, Suite 120
401 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
mbailey@nycourts.gov

Sandra Sabourin, Esq.
c/o Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas
Suite 401 Onondaga County Court House
401 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
ssabouri@nycourts.gov

Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Teresa Johnson and Mary Aufleger, Chairs

Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Co-Chairs: Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Supervising Judge, City Courts and
Mary Aufleger, Deputy District Executive

Members: Please see attached list.

Counties served: Monroe, Ontario, Steuben, Cayuga, Livingston, Seneca, Wayne, Yates

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: February 21, June 26, August 28, October 23, December 11

Average attendance: 8
Do you use Videoconferencing? Yes

2019 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Breast cancer awareness displays in the courthouses, with handouts from offices and agencies addressing the issue.

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Displays were visible in common areas of the courthouse.

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020: February 26, April 22, June 24, September 16, November18

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month: We are working on a program highlighting the progress that has been made over the last 30 years with respect to women in law related professions. This program will be presented in April.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020?
We continue to support efforts in our District to provide opportunities for less senior attorneys to argue in court on important issues. We continue to work on having adequate childcare and lactation stations in all of our courthouses. We continue to try to keep the prevention of sexual harassment fresh in the minds of all employees.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women?
Child Care Centers and Breastfeeding Space: We have been working on making sure there are adequate breastfeeding facilities in all of our courtrooms, for the public and

for employees. We have recently been able to ensure that the space available to the public in Rochester was renovated and upgraded. See attached.

Do you see unmet training needs? No

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations

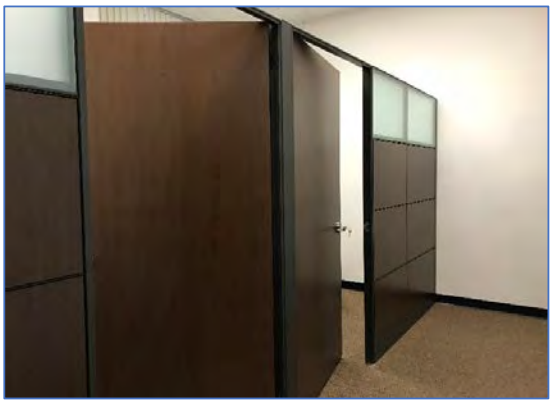
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE MEMBER ROSTER
Revised 3/11/2020

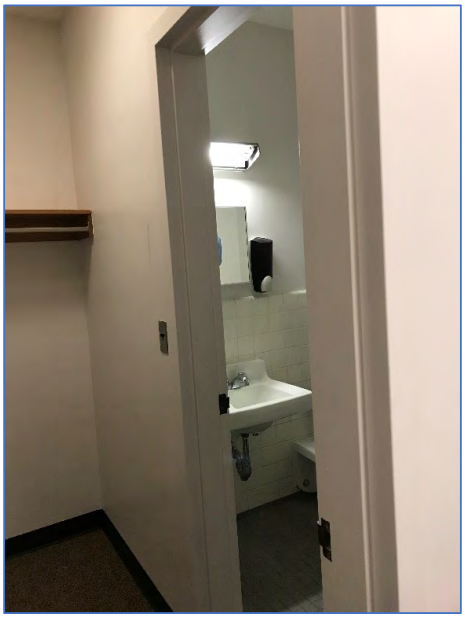
COUNTY	NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Monroe	Hon. Teresa D. Johnson Co-Chair Supervising Judge, City Courts, 7th Judicial District	Room 6 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, New York l46l4 Phone (585) 371-3406 Fax (585) 371-3423 email office: tjohnson@nycourts.gov email home: teresadjohnson@mac.com
Monroe	Sara S. Ashcraft, Esq. Family Court Practitioner	150 Allens Creek Rd. Rochester, New York 14618 Phone (585) 442-0540 ext.3l3 Fax (585) 442-6889 email Sashcraft@afylaw.com
Monroe	Mary Aufleger 7th JD Deputy District Executive Co-Chair	Seventh Judicial District Administration 161 Hall of Justice Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: 585-371-3436 Fax: 585-371-3286 Email: mauflege@nycourts.gov
Monroe	Catherine Cerulli, Esq. Director, SBA Center	Susan B. Anthony Center U of R, RC Box 270435 Rochester, NY 14627-1435 Phone: 585-276-3256 Email: Catherine_Cerulli@urmc.rochester.edu
Monroe	Adele Fine, Esq. Assistant Public Defender	10 N. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: 585-753-4548 Email: afine@monroecounty.gov
Wayne	Christina Herman Chief Clerk, Surrogates Court	Wayne County Hall of Justice 54 Broad Street Lyons, NY 14489 Phone: 315-665-8119 Email: cherman@nycourts.gov
Seneca	Susan Maleski Chief Clerk, Supreme & County	Seneca County Courthouse 48 West Williams Street Waterloo, NY 13165-1338 Phone: 315-539-7157 Email: smaleski@nycourts.gov

Cayuga	Laurie Michelman Associate Court Attorney Auburn City Court	157 Genesee Street Auburn City Court Auburn, NY 13021-3423 Phone: 315-237-6420 Email: lmichelm@nycourts.gov
Cayuga	Deb Robillard Chief Clerk, Auburn City Court	157 Genesee Street Auburn City Court Auburn, NY 13021-3423 Phone: 315-237-6422 Email: drobilla@nycourts.gov
Monroe	Jaime Saunders President/CEO	United Way of Greater Rochester 75 College Avenue Rochester, NY 14607 Phone: 585-262-6554 Email: jaime.saunders@uwrochester.org
Monroe	Sharon Kelly Sayers, Esq. Family Court Practitioner	30 W. Broad St., Ste. 506 Rochester, New York l46l4 Phone (585) 454-2320 Fax (585) 454-l6l2 email: sayers@frontiernet.net
Monroe	Josie M. Sheppard, Esq.	McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP 920 Bausch & Lomb Place Rochester, NY 14604 Phone: 585-623-4288 Email: Jsheppard@mdmc-law.com
Ontario	Hon. Elisabeth Toole	Geneva City Court 4067 W. Lake Road, Geneva, NY 14456 Phone (315) 789-4618 Fax (3l5) 789-l938 Email: toolelaw@rochester.rr.com
Yates	Carol Winslow Chief Clerk, Family Court	Yates County Family Court 415 Liberty Street Penn Yan, NY 14528 Phone: (315)536-5126 Email: cwinslow@nycourts.gov
Monroe	Kelly Wolford, Esq.	Powers & Santola LLP 693 East Ave. Rochester, NY 14607 Phone: 585-563-3330 Fax: email: kwolford@powers-santola.com
Monroe	Jacquelyn Grippe, Esq.	Monroe County Public Defender's Office 10 N. Fitzhugh St. Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: 585-753-4306 Fax: 585-753-4234 email: jacquelyngrippe@monroecounty.gov

ROCHESTER LACTATION ROOM

Located in the Hall of Justice Rm 26, near the Jury Room. Available to staff and the public, including litigants and attorneys.





Eighth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Chair

Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee

Chair: Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, NYS Supreme Court Justice

Members: Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Chairperson, Lisa Baehre, Ana Brignoni-Waliczek, Angie Davis-Leverette, Hon. Rosalie Bailey, Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres, Hon. Mary Carney, Shion Christian, Andrea Conjerti, Esq., Hon. Erin P. DeLabio, Hon. Sheila DiTullio, Shekuira Feaster, Hon. Paula Feroleto, Shannon Filbert, Hon. Lenora Foote-Beavers, Grace Hanlon, Esq., Mary Louise Hayden, Esq., Brenda Heath, Esq., Andrew Isenberg, Tracy Kassman, Kimberly LoCurto, Hon. Sharon LoVallo, Danielle Maichle, Esq., Daniel Marren, Esq., Suzanne Maxwell Barnes, Tasha Moore, Shawnette Reid, Jose Rodriguez, Hon. Robert Russell Jr., Sheila Weir Schwanekamp, Esq., Lydia Soto, Colleen Wagner, Erika Webb, Sharon Wasielewski

Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

2019 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: 1/28, 2/21, 3/21, 5/30, 6/27, 9/27, 10/24, 11/21, 12/5
Average Attendance: 12 - 15
Do you use Video Conferencing? Yes

Activities for Women's History Month 2019

On April 30, in recognition of the women's history month theme, "Visionary Women Champions of Peace and Non-Violence", the Committee hosted a Lunch & Learn Program featuring a speaker, Julie Loesch, the Executive Director of the Center for Resolution and Justice, who gave a presentation on mediation services available to litigants in the courts throughout the 8th JD. We then presented her and Dr. Mary Finn, Retired Buffalo City Court Clerk, Educator, Community Activist and Member of the Quakers, with an award entitled "women who promote peace". Approximately 50 people attended the program which was publicized district wide and webcasted throughout the district.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2019

A lunch & learn program was held on Oct. 28, 2019 from 12:15 – 1:45 pm in the ceremonial courtroom. DV survivor, Linda Dynel, author of the book 'Leaving Dorian – A Memoir of Hope" was the speaker. She was well received, and the program was well attended. The same program was held in conjunction with the Chautauqua County IDV Court, Chautauqua County Bar Association and the Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Program on Oct. 18, at the Robert Jackson Center. The YWCA's Parenting After Violence Program Curriculum was also presented.

The Committee also sponsored a Domestic Violence Program with the Genesee County Bar Association on the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children with a presentation by the YWCA's Parenting After Violence Program on Oct. 2, 2019.

Other Special Events or Activities 2019

In February, the Committee Disseminated the attached Anti-Bias/Discrimination & GENDA information to all employees throughout the 8th JD.

Lunch & Learn Program on Black History Month:
On February 26, the GRFC co-sponsored the annual Black History lunch and Learn program. There were approximately 60 people in attendance.

Lunch & Learn Program on Autism:
On April 4, The GRFC members participated in a Lunch & Learn program about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Dr. Kathy Doody, PH.D. was the presenter and discussed the characteristics, levels and diagnosis of ASD along with the concept of person first language, parental concerns and stress levels. She answered questions and suggested ways to appropriately interact with parents of autistic children and high functioning autistic litigants as well as available services. Family court judges and staff were the targeted audience. There was approximately 60 people in attendance. The program was webcast throughout the 8th JD.

Lamplighter Luncheon:
On May 8, the Committee hosted its bi-annual Lamplighter Award Luncheon where the following ten (10) women were recognized as lamplighters: Linda Novotny (Erie County Surrogate Court Staff Atty); Sharon Wasielewski (District Office); Aviva Abramovsky (UB Law School's first female Dean); Caroline Wojtaszek (Niagara County, NY's first elected female DA); Mary Hajdu, Esq. (Chautauqua County Atty), Luci TaylorWelch (Orleans County's first female Probation Director); Ruby Olive (Retired, first female Minority Erie County Court Clerk); Erika Webb; Tiffany E. Perry (First Minority female Erie County Family Court Referee); and Shirley Chisholm (First minority female Congresswoman) posthumous. Approximately 160 people were in attendance.

Ramadan Friendship Dinner:
On May 23, members of the Committee attended the Ramadan Friendship Dinner "Breaking Bread, Bonding Communities". Remarks were made by Administrative Judge and Committee member Hon. Paula L. Feroleto.

Pride Programs co-sponsored with the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ+ Commission and Brown Chiari, LLP: Program Chair: Tracey Kassman
Erie County: On June 12, a Lunch & Learn Program jointly sponsored by the GRFC & The Richard C. Failla LGBTG+ Commission titled: "Raising the Bar-Affirming Transgender People in Our Courts" with guest speaker Milo Primeaux was held. The Hon. Joann Winslow, Co-Chair and Matthew J. Skinner, Exec. Director of the Failla Commission attended along with approximately 70 other people. Justice E. Jeannette Ogden gave remarks on behalf of the GRFC and the Failla Commission – 8th JD. The Program was well received.

The Chautauqua County dinner program with same title was held on June 12th at the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown, N.Y. GRFC member Grace Hanlon, was the Program Chair. GRFC and Failla Commission member Andrea Conjerti, Esq. was the Program Co-Chair and gave remarks. Approximately 35 people attended.

Hispanic Heritage Month Program:
A Lunch and Learn Program in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month was held on Oct. 3, 2019. Approximately 70 people (68) were in attendance. The Program title was "Serving our Nation" and members of the Hispanic Community were recognized for their service to the Armed Forces. Judge Betty Calvo Torres, Chair of the Program Committee, gave brief remarks. The Committee partnered with the Puerto Rican Hispanic Parade Committee of Buffalo. There was a dance performance by Amor y Heritage and refreshments were served.

SOCIE COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

GRFC members Judge Sharon LoVallo, Mary Carney and ADR Coordinator Tracy Kassman, also members of the Erie County Family Court Sexual Orientation Gender the Identity and Expression Committee, attended the Gay, Lesbian Youth Services dinner on 5/21/19. Judge LoVallo was recognized by the Bar Association of Erie County for her fair handling of cases involving LBGTQ+ youth involved in the juvenile justice and Child welfare system with the Outstanding Jurist Award.

SHARON THOMAS CHILDREN'S CENTER

The GRFC was added to a plaque prominently displayed in the Sharon Thomas Children's Center in Buffalo City Court for its continued efforts to assist the Center. Each year the GRFC obtains a wish list from the centers and donates items contained on the list.

Donation of Winter Hats and Mittens to Sharon A. Thomas Children's Center

The 8th Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee members collected and distributed hats and mittens to the Sharon A. Thomas Children Center in Buffalo City Court.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email and Flyer
Was there any press before or after? Yes

Future Plans

Meeting dates for 2020: 2/27, 3/26, 4/23, 5/28, 6/25, 9/24, 10/22, 11/19, 12/17

Women's Suffrage Centennial Program:
A Lunch and Learn Panel presentation program is planned for March 20 in recognition of Women's History Month. The panelist will be Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes and Justice Paula Feroleto, who would each give 10minute remarks about the importance and the impact of the women's right to vote and the ratification of the 19th Amendment. A representative from the Women's TAP Fund has been be invited to make remarks or to be given honorable mention.

Women Prisoners Access Program
A Lunch and Learn Program is planned for the week of April 27th in which there will be a presentation by the Osborne Association's Family Works Buffalo program to enlighten Judges and community members about their parenting programs for women re-entering the community from prison and video access programs for children with mothers in Bedford and Albion Prisons.

Understanding Our Courts
A Lunch and Learn Program entitled "Understanding Our Courts" is planned to discuss expectations of court staff and litigants, and to educate litigants about the Court Help Desk, DIY forms, the availability of civil legal services for the indigent, the Family Justice Center for victims of domestic violence and understanding the Jury duty process.

Pride Month Program
A Lunch and Learn Program is being planned in recognition of Pride Month that will focus on LBGTQ+ children in Foster Care. A professor from the University of Buffalo, Diane Ells, is the proposed speaker.

Lamplighter Plaque Program
The Lamplighter Plaque Program will be held at the Delores Denman NYS Appellate Division, 4th Department Courthouse on June 16, 2020 where the names of the 2019 Lamplighter Award recipients will be added to the plaque containing our prior honorees.

Mental Illness Program
A Lunch and Learn Program to education court staff and members of the legal community to recognize the symptoms of mental illness and to suggest appropriate responses in the Court and in the workplace. It is anticipated that the program will be held in November - December.

GRFC members will tour the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center in July.

Programs are being planned in recognition of Domestic Violence and Hispanic Heritage Month.

What issues regarding women and gender fairness in the courts do you think are important in 2020?
Access to the Courts for women, especially immigrant women, is an issue that is important in 2020. The increased numbers of school suspensions of younger girls in public high schools and elementary schools. Affording opportunities for civil legal services for women, immigrants and minorities.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? There is a lack of supervised visitation sites.

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse?

Mental health issues for women litigants, lawyers, and court staff to reduce the stigma associated therewith.

Areas of success during 2019 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts?

We were instrumental in increasing the numbers of breastfeeding spaces in the Courts in the 8th JD and in the discountenance of the use of shackles on juveniles under the age of 10 in Erie County Family Court.

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs and projects?

Bar Association of Erie County
Minority Bar Association of Western New York
Cattaraugus Bar Association
Women Lawyers of Western NY
Women's Bar Association of WNY
State University of New York at Buffalo Law School
NYS Association of Women Judges
International Institute
State University of New York at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center
Puerto Rican and Hispanic Day Parade Committee of WNY
Richard C. Failla LBGTQ Commission

Dr. Kathy R. Doody

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, the 8th Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee sponsored a lunch and learn program on April 4, 2019 in the Ceremonial Courtroom featuring guest speaker Kathy Ralabate Doody, Ph.D. is a SUNY professor at Buffalo State's Exceptional Education department and has her doctoral degree in special education with an emphasis in autism spectrum disorder from the University at Buffalo. As a clinician and researcher, her areas of interest include autism spectrum disorders, family engagement, early childhood education, and low incidence disabilities.

Dr. Doody also provides consultation and teacher in -service training to schools and agencies servicing individuals of all ages with autism. She is a member of the New York State Commissioner `s Advisory Panel (CAP) for Special Education, functioning in an advisory capacity to the Office of Special Education and advises the Governor, Legislature and Commissioner on matters relating to educating students with disabilities in New York State. Dr. Doody also serves as an expert witness on legal matters involving individuals with ASD or other developmental disabilities.

Prior to this role in higher education, Kathy was an early childhood special educator, teaching for over 15 years. In this capacity, Kathy taught at The Summit Center and other programs, working with infants and young children on the autism spectrum in Erie and Niagara Counties.

Kathy is passionate about her work in the field of autism spectrum disorders, and collaborating with educators, administrators, parents, medical professionals, and members of the legal community to assist individuals with autism in reaching their fullest potential in home, community, and educational settings.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A BIAS-FREE COURTHOUSE

without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, disability, religion, creed, domestic violence status, or genetic status. Further, all forms of sexual harassment are prohibited. The Unified Court System also provides equal access, fair treatment, and quality of service to all persons who use or do business in the courts and court-related agencies. The Unified Court System is further committed to ensuring non-discriminatory hiring policies and fair employment practices.

THE OFFICE OF THE MANAGING INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR BIAS MATTERS

is within the Office of the Inspector General and is responsible for reinforcing the Unified Court System's commitment to eliminating bias within the courthouse. The Office also conducts confidential investigations in connection with allegations of discrimination and bias that affect the conditions and terms of employment, or that relate to services provided by court system personnel.

WHO CAN FILE A COMPLAINT?

Judicial and non-judicial employees of the Unified Court System, court users and members of the public can file a complaint regarding allegations of bias.

THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

Investigations are conducted by trained professionals. If allegations are substantiated, corrective action will be taken including, but not limited to, employee re-training, mediation, counseling, probation, suspension, termination, or referral to appropriate outside agencies.

TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION OR FILE A COMPLAINT YOU MAY CONTACT

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR BIAS MATTERS
Office of Court Administration
25 Beaver Street
New York, New York 10004
PHONE: (646) 386-3507 TOLL-FREE: 1-877-2-END-BIAS
EMAIL: ig@nycourts.gov

8Th JD Celebrates Black History Month

On Tuesday, February 26, 2019, the Eighth Judicial District celebrated Black History Month with guest speaker Dr. Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., Professor and Founding Director of the Center for Urban Studies, State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Taylor discussed the topic of "Black Migration and the History in Buffalo, New York." This event was sponsored by the Eighth Judicial District Diversity Steering Committee, the Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee, the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, Inc., the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter and the Bar Association of Erie County Minority Outreach Committee.

Hon. Suzanne Maxwell-Barnes, Hon. Deborah A. Haendiges, Elizabeth Fox-Solomon, Bridget M. O'Connell, Erika Webb, Hon. Paula Feroleto, Dr. Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., Rev. Ron Coleman, Sgt. Angie Davis-Leveritte, Lenora Foote-Beavers, Rev. Sandra Scruggs, Tasha Moore, Brittany Jones, Sgt. Peter Robinson, Hon. Barbara Johnson-Lee

Breastfeeding - Friendly Workplace Policy

Erie Supreme Court

Erie Family Court

Buffalo City Court

- A lactation and pumping room has been designated in Five Courts through out the 8th Judicial District.
- The rooms are locked and requires key entry for access. When in use, signage is available and must be utilized by participants when breastfeeding is in progress to avoid access by other employees.
- The room has electrical outlets, a rocker, table and chairs as well as informational pamphlets.
- Participants must provide their own pump and personal cooler to store milk.
- The room is available to all employees, attorneys and jurors. Use by the public is on a requested basis.

Niagara County Court

Delsignore Lactation Room

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Pictured left to right-Hon. Deborah Haendiges, Linda Dynel Author of "Leaving Dorian"/Domestic Violence Survivor and Hon. Mark Montour

In recognition of October Domestic Violence Awareness Month, several Domestic Violence Awareness Programs were held in our District.

On October 2, 2019, Genesee County IDV Court, with co -sponsor 8th Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee, presented a program on the impact of domestic violence on children 's brain development and also introduced the YWCA 's Parenting After Violence Program at a lunchtime presentation to the Genesee County Bar Association.

On October 18, 2019, Chautauqua County IDV Court, with co -sponsor 8th Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee, presented a program for the Chautauqua County Courts, members of the Bar association and other community stakeholders titled "Domestic Violence: One Woman's Journey of Survival" at the Robert H. Jackson Center. Chautauqua County IDV Court Judge Stephen Cass introduced program speaker, author and domestic violence survivor, Linda Dynel. In 2013, writer Linda Dynel decided that it was time to pen a story that was closer to her heart as a survivor of domestic violence which she titled *Leaving Dorian,* published in February, 2014. Ms. Dynel also spoke about foreshadowing life experiences prior to her relationship with Dorian to help the audience understand risk factors and red flags associated with unhealthy relationships, as well as the evolution and cyclical nature of domestic violence.

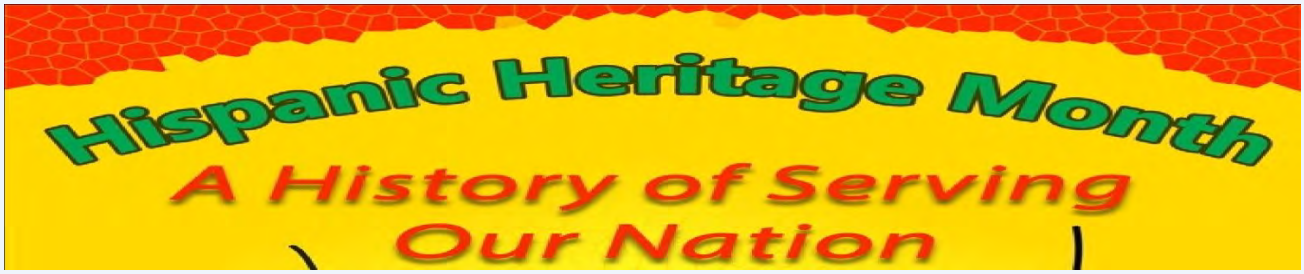
Leaving Dorian has been widely read in post -secondary education as a required text by professors for both graduate and undergraduate Psychology, Criminal Justice, Family Counseling and Sociology courses, as well training for law enforcement academies. Ms. Dynel spends much of her time presenting workshops and lectures on her experience with domestic violence to community stakeholder groups. She also presented at the 2019 OCA Family Violence Task Force Program.

Continued

The Chautauqua County Domestic Violence Awareness Program also included presentations by Diana Butcher and Jackie Sasso from the Salvation Army Domestic Violence Advocacy Program and Gregory White and Sam Yuwar from the Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Program for Men outlining the services provided by their respective agencies.

On October 28, 2019, *Leaving Dorian* author and domestic violence survivor Linda Dynel also presented at a lunchtime program held in the Ceremonial Courtroom in Erie County presented by the Erie County Integrated Domestic Violence Mentor Court, Buffalo City Court Domestic Violence Court, 8th Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee and the Bar Association of Erie County. Erie IDV Mentor Court Justice Deborah Haendiges introduced Ms. Dynel who spoke to the large audience of Judges, civil attorneys, criminal defense attorneys, Assistant District Attorneys, Attorneys for Children, victim advocates, Probation Officers, mental health and substance abuse counseling service providers and other community stakeholders. Ms. Dynel gave a dynamic presentation about her experience as a survivor of domestic violence and provided insight as to the adversities and challenges that survivors of domestic violence may experience, both during and after their violent relationship.

.

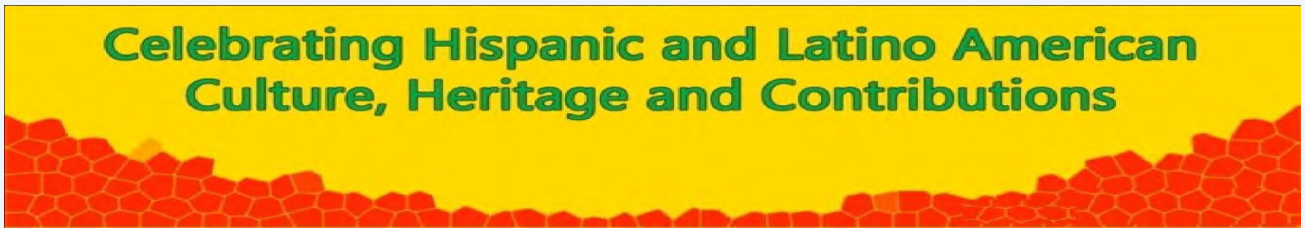


In the new American conversation, cultural celebrations like these matter, and they matter greatly. They matter for the individual and national psyche, because they allow the 50 million-plus Hispanics, and the larger American family, to better appreciate the Hispanic story within the greater American narrative. The Narrative is in many ways flawed, in part, because of the diversity with Hispanics themselves.

Let me give an example of what I Mean - Alexandro Guzman who two years ago was buried , draped in his two beloved flags-an American and a Puerto Rican flag. The fact that he went into the afterlife swathed in 51 stars and eighteen stripes spoke to the duality of his bicultural experience. This twin allegiance was neither exceptional nor paradoxical. His double cultural devotion is at the heart of the Hispanic American experience.

When Alexandro was deployed at the age of 17, he was a country boy from the southern coast of Puerto Rico who spoke only a few words of English, And yet he served this nation valiantly and was honorably discharged after three years of combat in Asia. Even though it was a source of immense pride (and pain, too, I'm sure), he rarely spoke about his time in Korea. And he didn't have to - his body bore the evidence of the physical wounds endured, including a missing finger, blown off by mortar attacks. And while curious to hear war stories, his family respected his wishes and never brought up the conflict. Implicitly, they understood to steer clear of that part of his life.

So upon his death at 76, the family learned something astonishing about Alexandro. Though he was racially black and ethnically Puerto Rician, a Hispanic American who lived his adult life in New York, Alexandro Guzman was officially listed in Army documents as white. While I was shocked at how a dark chocolate Latino would be mistaken for Caucasian, historians looking into the exact numbers of Hispanic soldiers who serve in wars aren't.



Hispanic Heritage Month
A History of Serving Our Nation

Detailed accounts of Hispanic in the armed forces were not kept until the 1970s, according to the Pew Center for Latino Studies. While some records show that thousands of Hispanic American men - Mexican, Puerto Ricans, Cubans for instance - fought in the Civil War as well as the two World Wars, researchers have determined that many more served and died than official documents show. As a result of the omission, the full story of Hispanic sacrifice may never be fully told.

And that is a shame, since Latinos have been part of the building of America - including dying while protecting it - for hundreds of years. If the records don't show that Hispanics served and died, that we toiled in the trenched and contributed with blood , how does our nation measure Hispanic contributions, let alone acknowledge them?

This is why commemorations like Hispanic Heritage Month are important - a collective look back affirms that we were there, and that we are here, legitimately. Celebrations like these serve as reminders that we belong and that this nation is ours too.

Remarks by Hon. Betty Calvo - Torres

Celebrating Hispanic and Latino American Culture, Heritage and Contributions

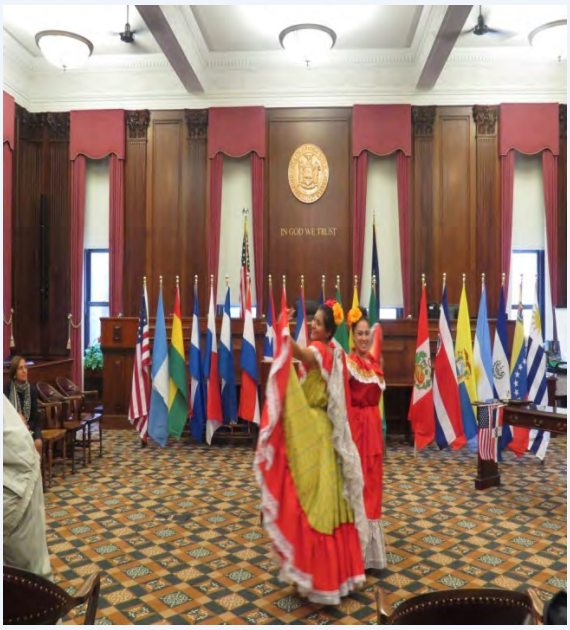
Hispanic Heritage Month

A History of Serving Our Nation

Celebrating Hispanic and Latino American Culture, Heritage and Contributions

Hispanic Heritage Month

A History of Serving Our Nation



Celebrating Hispanic and Latino American Culture, Heritage and Contributions

NYS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS- EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT GENDER AND RACIAL FAIRNESS COMMITTEE HOST LAMPLIGHTER LUNCHEON

On May 8, 2019, New York State Judicial Commission on Women in the Courts- Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee hosted their biennial celebration of Women Lamplighters in the Law Awards Luncheon at the Hotel Lafayette,391 Washington Street, Buffalo, New York. The following honorees were recognized for their leadership and outstanding contributions to the general and legal communities:

- **Dean Aviva Abramovsky, Dean University at Buffalo School of Law**
- **Hon. Shirley Chisholm (Posthumous), First African American to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives**
- **Linda C. Novotny, Esq., Court Attorney Referee Erie County Surrogate's Court**
- **Ruby Olive, Retired Court Clerk Buffalo City and Erie County Courts**
- **Tiffany Perry, Esq. Court Attorney Referee Erie County Family Court**
- **Mary Hajdu, Esq., Past President Jamestown Bar Association**
- **Sharon Wasielewski, Court Analyst Eighth Judicial District Administrative Office**
- **Erika L. Webb, Chief Clerk Buffalo City Court**
- **Luci Welch, Orleans County Director of Probation**
- **Hon. Caroline Wojtaszek, Esq., Niagara County District Attorney**

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Committee Chair, said, "The NYS Judicial Commission on Women in the Courts - Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee is proud to continue the biennial tradition of recognizing the significant contributions of women in Western New York who have a positive impact on the legal profession, the courts and the judiciary. In an era when we witness the challenges to women's rights at home and around the globe, we are pleased to shine a light on the positive contributions these remarkable women have made in our communities."

Tiffany Perry, Esq. Court Attorney Referee Erie County Family Court And Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden

L to R: Sharon Wasielewski, Court Analyst Eighth Judicial District Administrative Office; Erika L. Webb, Chief Clerk Buffalo City Court; Linda C. Novotny, Esq., Court Attorney Referee Erie County Surrogate's Court; Luci Welch, Orleans County Director of Probation; Dean Aviva Abramovsky, Dean University at Buffalo School of Law; Hon. Caroline Wojtaszek, Esq., Niagara County District Attorney; Ruby Olive, Retired Court Clerk Buffalo City and Erie County Courts ; Luci Welch, Orleans County Director of Probation

NYS Judicial Commission on Women in the Courts
Gender & Racial Fairness Committee
8th Judicial District

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden,
Chairperson

Hon. Rose Bailey
Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin
Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres
Shion Christian
Angie Davis– Leverette
Hon. Sheila DiTullio
Jacqueline DiAngelo
Hon. Shannon Filbert
Shekuira Feaster
Hon. Paula Feroleto
Mary Louise Hayden
Brenda Heath
Maureen Hourihan
Andrew Isenberg
Anna Jochum
Kimberly LoCurto
Danielle Maichle
Tasha Moore
Shawnette Reid
Jose Rodriguez
Hon. Robert Russell. Jr
Sheila Weir Schwanekamp
Sandra Scruggs
Lydia Soto
Sharon Wasielewski
Erika Webb

NYS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS

GENDER & RACIAL FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

LAMPLIGHTER AWARD LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019

Since elected, Mrs. Wojtaszek implemented the "front-end prosecution" program in Niagara Falls City Court by doubling the number of Assistant District Attorneys that handle criminal cases originating in that court. Additionally, she assigned a full-time Special Victim's Unit prosecutor to that court to handle domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault cases on-site. The Violent Crimes Bureau Chief is also on-site weekly to handle homicides, gun-related offenses, violent assaults and home invasions in order to promote vertical prosecution from arrest through trial.

Mrs. Wojtaszek is working to enhance the use and capabilities of the Niagara Intelligence Crime Analysis Center by hiring a part-time Criminal Intelligence Officer, as well as using asset forfeiture money to purchase pole cameras for local municipalities. She is improving the screening and prosecution of financial, sexual and physical abuse crimes against the elderly with the Niagara County Office of the Aging. Mrs. Wojtaszek is working with the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to improve the investigation of sexual assault on college campuses and to provide trauma-informed training to all local law enforcement. She personally reviews all animal abuse cases in Niagara County and has worked to increase the offenders that are required to be placed upon the Animal Abuse Registry.

While earning her law degree at the State University at Buffalo, she was head coordinator of the law school's Domestic Violence Task Force. She also worked as acting domestic violence coordinator for Niagara County while still a law student.

Before entering law school, Mrs. Wojtaszek graduated magna cum laude from the State University College at Brockport with dual majors in political science and sociology. As an undergraduate, she studied abroad at Oxford University in England and worked as a congressional intern in Washington D.C.

She is lives in North Tonawanda with husband Henry and their three children.

Bar Association's federal judiciary committees, once for U.S. Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito and again for U.S. Supreme Court nominee Sonya Sotomayor. She earned her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania where she was the managing editor of the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law, and her B.S. from Cornell University.

Linda C. Novotny , Esq.

Court Attorney—Referee

Linda C. Novotny is a Court Attorney-Referee in Erie County Surrogate's Court and has been a member of its legal staff for over 35 years. Prior to joining this Court, she was an attorney for Onondaga County Family Court and then its Surrogate's Court. Linda is a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law.

Ruby Olive

Former Court Clerk– Buffalo City Court

Ruby Olive served the Courts in the Eighth Judicial District as a Court Clerk for 35 years; from 1974 when she began her career in the Buffalo City Court, until she retired from her position as the first African American Court Clerk in the Erie County Court in 2009. Ruby worked in the County Clerk's office and the Bail Office in addition to being assigned to the courtrooms of Judge's DiTullio and Troutman at different occasions.

Ruby joined the Buffalo City Court Clerk's staff when the Frank Sedita Buffalo City Court was a new building and assisted members of the public as to procedure, distribution of information, filing and providing referrals to law related organizations. She transferred to the Erie County/Supreme Court Clerk's office, after passing the promotional test, where she continued to assist the citizens of Erie County as well as the judges, lawyers and litigants.

Luci Welch

Director Of Probations, Orleans County

Luci Welch is currently the Director of Probation for Orleans County and is a twenty nine (29) year veteran of the department. She holds an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. Luci started in the department as a Student Intern in 1989 and was hired as a full time Probation Officer Trainee in July of 1990. During her career she has been involved in many different types of criminal cases but specialized in DWI, Juvenile Delinquent/ Person In Need of Supervision (PINS) and Sex Offender cases before being named Director in 1999. In 2000, Luci attended and successfully completed the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Executive Orientation Program for Parole and Probation Executives in Huntsville, TX and is a proud member of the New York State Council of Probation Administrators Association (COPA).

Director Welch has received several awards for her work including;

"Friend of Education" award for her work with Juveniles and PINS in 1991

"Friend of Treatment" award from Genesee Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (GCASA) in 2014

"State Director's" award from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives for Outstanding Probation/ Department of Social Services Collaboration in 2011

Luci has always had a passion for probation due to its unique blend of law enforcement and social work practices and counts herself very fortunate to be part of this wonderful and challenging community based system.

Luci lives in Kendall, New York with her husband, Brian and has twin adult children; Caelan (pronounced Caylin) and Olivia; whom she counts as her greatest blessings!

Minority Bar Association of Western New York. She is also involved in various committees within Erie County Family Court including the Disproportionate Minority Representation committee, the Diversity Committee and she serves as co-chair for the Planning for Older Youth in Care committee.

A life-long Buffalo resident, Tiffany Perry has been recognized by her colleagues and peers and received awards from The Wealthy Place, the Minority Bar Foundation and the University at Buffalo, Law of School, Students of Color Committee. She is also active in her church, where she is the Chairperson on the Trustee Board for God's Way of Life Interdenominational Church.

Mary Hajdu, Esq.

Lawyer

Mary S. Hajdu is a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law, and has practiced in Chautauqua County since 1989. She was a partner at the law firm of Burgett & Robbins in Jamestown, New York, where she handled complex litigation cases involving personal injury, wrongful death, product liability, motor vehicle and securities fraud claims. Mary has handled a number of appeals in the appellate courts of New York, and in the Second and Third Circuit Courts of the United States. She is a past president of the Jamestown Bar Association, and previously served as the court examiner of guardianship accounts in both Supreme Court and Surrogate's Court. In 2013, she opened her own practice concentrating in the representation of children in Family Court. Mary is a recipient of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department's " Honorable Michael F. Dillon Award" in 2016, for her service to the Attorneys for the Children Program. Mary has served on a number of community and civic boards, most recently including the former WCA Hospital Board and the Chautauqua County Humane Society Board. Mary resides in Lakewood, New York, with her husband, Lyle T. Hajdu, and her three dogs.

Sharon Wasielewski

Court Analyst, 8th Judicial District Administrative Office

Sharon Wasielewski is a Court Analyst in the Fiscal Department of the 8th Judicial District Administrative Office. Her career with the courts started in 1998, being hired for a temporary position in the Erie County Commissioner of Jurors Office. In 2001, Ms. Wasielewski was transferred to the district administrative office as an Assistant Administrative Clerk. Shortly after she was assigned to the personnel department, and then to her current position in the fiscal department. Sharon assists various schools in the area with setting up and guiding students on tours of the various court buildings, sitting in on court proceedings and giving them a history of the court system. Ms. Wasielewski has served on the Gender Racial Fairness Committee for 6 years. Since 2011, Sharon has been the chairman of the blood drive committee for court system employees.

Sharon is a lifelong member of Buffalo, and currently lives in Cheektowaga with her husband of 35 years, Thomas. They have two children – Thomas and Daniel, both of whom are married. They both live and work in Western New York. Sharon loves traveling and going to music concerts with her husband and family. She enjoys doing crafts, gardening, and photography.

Erika L. Webb, Chief Clerk

Erika L. Webb serves as Chief Clerk of Buffalo City Court. She manages the courts' daily operations to ensure efficiency and courteous service to the public from intake through disposal in the management of 60-70k new filings and ongoing case files for fourteen elected judges. As Chief Clerk, she oversees a court staff of 100 employees plus auxiliary agency staff. She is also responsible for the submission of the annual multi-million-dollar court operating budget. Ms. Webb is dedicated to her career and has a passion for the work she performs daily; she strongly believes in fairness and leading by example.

In addition to her Chief Clerk duties, Ms. Webb serves on numerous committees within the court to enhance service and justice for all which includes the 8th Judicial District (8JD) Gender, Racial & Fairness Committee, the YWCA Children's Centers in the Courts Advisory Committee, the 8JD Diversity Committee, the Careers in Courts Outreach Team and she is a member the 8JD Coalition of Blacks in the Courts. In 2016, Ms. Webb was appointed to the NYS OCA Local Courts Advisory Committee by NYS Chief Judge, Hon. Lawrence Marks. Ms. Webb earned an A.A.S. degree in Secretarial Science from Erie Community College and a B.A. degree in Business Administration from Medaille College, graduating magna cum laude and summa cum laude respectively.

As an active member of the community and pursuing her desire to give back outside of work, in 2012 Ms. Webb founded Eagle Wings Enrichment and Mentoring Program for young women. The program's mission is to educate, encourage and enrich the lives of young women through hands-on learning, community service and fun enrichment activities. Operating successfully as a small independent organization, in recent years the program has taken a new focus of providing academic scholarships which are made possible through program fund-raising, and to date, such efforts have provided eight recipients each with $500 scholarships for college tuition.

In successfully achieving her goals in career and community, Ms. Webb has been an employee of the New York State Unified Court System since 1996. She has had many years of dedicated service over the past 24 years serving and welcoming all court users and visitors to the courthouse. Ms. Webb is a proven leader and through hard work and her desire to succeed, she has excelled through the ranks by serving and promoting many times within various titles throughout the court from Office Assistant, Sr. Court Office Assistant, Court Assistant, Court Clerk, Deputy Chief Clerk to Chief Clerk where she now successfully leads the second largest city court outside of NYC.

Ruby Olive was the sole African American to serve as a Court Clerk assigned to a Courtroom in Erie County Court. She competently and professionally represented the Court as a member of the staff at a time when diversity was completely lacking in the Court staff on the County/Supreme Court level. She is a shining example of the importance of diversity and inclusion and the positive difference it makes to litigants of the court on every level.

Tiffany Perry, Esq.
Court Attorney– Referee

Tiffany Perry was appointed Court Attorney Referee by the Administrative Judge, Paula L. Feroleto and the Supervising Judge of Family Court, Michael F. Griffith in November, 2016. She presides over child Abuse and Neglect, Custody, Visitation and Family Offense and Permanency hearings. Previously, she was the Confidential Law Clerk for Family Court Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin where, among other duties, she presided over pretrial conferences and negotiated settlements between attorneys and litigants in child abuse and neglect, custody, and domestic violence proceedings. From January 2011 until June 2015, she was an attorney with the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, representing several thousand indigent criminal defendants charged with both misdemeanors and felonies. Ms. Perry also was an Assistant Erie County Attorney from May 2006 through December 2010, prosecuting juveniles charged in Erie County Family Court.

Tiffany graduated from the University at Buffalo Law School with her *juris doctor* in 2000. Her undergraduate degree in History came from Canisius College in 1997, where she was on the Dean's List. She was a 1993 graduate of Bennett High School in Buffalo.

Ms. Perry is a member of the Family Court Practice and Procedure Committee of the Erie County Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association of Western New York, on the Board of Directors of the Minority Bar Foundation, on the Board of Directors of the Literacy New York Buffalo- Niagara Inc., an Officer of the SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association and past Vice President of the

Caroline A. Wojtaszek, Esq.
Niagara County District Attorney

Caroline Wojtaszek was elected Niagara County District Attorney in November 2016. Mrs. Wojtaszek is Niagara County's first female District Attorney. Prior to running for office, Mrs. Wojtaszek worked as the Confidential Clerk to Niagara County Court Judge Sara Sheldon for over six years, handling more than half of the felony criminal cases in the County. Before that, she was an Assistant District Attorney in the office for twelve years as a member of the Special Victim's Unit.

While serving in the DA's office, Mrs. Wojtaszek earned convictions in numerous high-profile cases. She concentrated on domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault cases. She successfully prosecuted a North Tonawanda elementary school teacher convicted of molesting six students. As one of the first women in Niagara County to lead the prosecution of a murder case, she gained the convictions of three defendants for the murder of 16-year old Jennifer Bolender in Niagara Falls. Mrs. Wojtaszek successfully prosecuted a defendant accused of raping and terrorizing a young girl and slitting the throat of her younger brother in Wheatfield. She also convicted a serial rapist from Lockport.

Mrs. Wojtaszek has long been a leader in the fight against domestic violence. She helped develop Niagara County's domestic violence protocols that later served as a model for District Attorneys statewide. She coordinated training for lawyers and service providers working in the criminal justice system with those suffering from mental health problems. She has also coordinated training in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving Abusive Head Trauma/Shaken Baby Syndrome in infants and children. She also served on several committees, including the Child Abuse Intervention Project, the Family Violence Intervention Project, the Domestic Violence Intervention Program and the Rape Crisis Advisory Board. She served on the board of the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier and was a member of its Domestic Violence Committee.

The 8th Judicial District's Women in the Court/Gender & Racial Fairness Committee honors, on a bi-annual basis, women who, through determination and personal achievement, are shining examples of "Lady Justice" and Light the way to equality and justice throughout western New York. This year's honorees are:

Aviva Abramovsky, Esq.

Dean– University Of Buffalo School Of Law

Aviva Abramovsky is the University at Buffalo School of Law's 19th permanent dean and the first woman to hold the position. Since her arrival in June of 2017, she has overseen the expansion of the school's clinical legal education program, the implementation of a new undergraduate program in law, the development of UB's Center for the Advancement of Sport and an Entrepreneurship Law Center, and the launch of a series of capital improvements projects.

Prior to her appointment as dean of UB School of Law, Abramovsky was the Kaufman Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation and an associate dean at Syracuse University College of Law where she led the school's internationalization efforts. She previously served as a visiting professor at Florida State University College of Law, and as a shareholder in the New York City-based law firm Anderson Kill & Olick.

Abramovsky is an expert in insurance law, commercial law, regulation of financial entities and legal ethics. She has authored numerous articles and legal treatises, including McKinney's Uniform Commercial Code forms for New York. She is the current editor of LSN Insurance Law, Legislation, & Policy, and she served as the editor and academic advisor for the Connecticut Insurance Law Journal from 2010 to 2011. She also contributed to the British Insurance Law Association's (BILA) 2013 Book Prize winner, Research Handbook on International Insurance and Regulation, and her scholarship has been recognized as a "litigation essential" by LexisNexis.

Abramovsky has served twice as an academic evaluator for the American

Shirley Chisolm (Posthumously)

NYS Assembly

Shirley Chisolm was elected to the NYS Assembly in 1965, where she successfully championed a bill that extended unemployment benefits to domestic workers. She also sponsored the introduction of a Seek Program (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) to NY State, which provided disadvantaged students the chance to enter college while receiving intensive remedial education. In 1968, she was elected as the Democratic National Committeewoman from NY and in 1969 became the first African American to be elected to the US House of Representatives, where she worked on the Education and Labor Committee and helped form the Congressional Black Caucus. In 1972, she made history again by becoming the first black woman of a major party to run for a Presidential Nomination. Throughout her political career, she fought for educational opportunities and social justice. After serving seven terms in Congress (1969-1983), she retired from office, taught at Mount Holyoke College and became popular on the lecture circuit. She is the author of two books, Unbought and Unbossed (1970) and The Good Fight (1973).

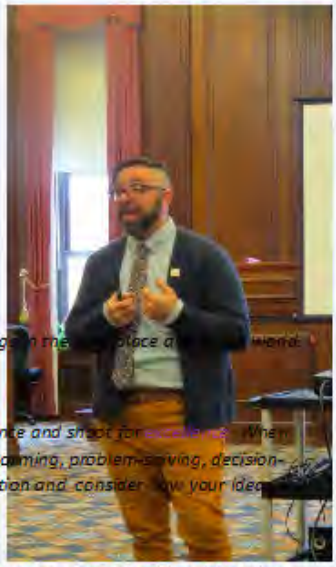
Her message and her motto was reflected in her first book "Unbought and Unbossed". Shirley Chisholm's dynamic leadership and activism continues to inspire all.

In recognition of Pride Month, The NYS Judicial Commission on Women in the Courts, 8JD Gender and Racial Fairness Committee and the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ+ Commission sponsored a lunch and learn Program on June 12, 2019 in Erie County Surrogate's Court featuring speaker Milo Primeaux, Esq. who presented on the topic "Raising the ar: Affirming Transgender People in Our Courts". Milo Primeaux (he/ him) is a queer transgender person, LGBTQ+ civil rights attorney and CEO of Just Roots Consulting, a social enterprise dedicated to building up LGBTQ+ excellence across industries and institutions nationwide.

RAISING THE BAR

Affirming Transgender People in Our Courts

Best Practice Tips



Here are some easy best practices that judges and non-judicial court staff can implement in daily work and strive to incorporate into the court's culture of access, equity, and j justice!

1. *Educate yourself about what you don't know, and then turn what you learn into action to affect chang[illegible] Knowledge without action is inert, so put it to use!*

2. *Dare to imagine what a truly equitable court could look like. Be willing to go beyond mere compliance and shoot for excellence. When working to make those big dreams a reality, be sure to take an intersectional approach to any brainstorming, problem-solving, decision-making, and strategic planning. Invite participants with diverse life experiences to join the conversation and consider how your idea impact people who are not like you.*

3. *Honor everyone's authenticity. Celebrate difference, and foster affirming and acceptance beyond mere tolerance. This will positively impact your interpersonal relationships and conversations, but* Milo Primeaux, Esq. *also can translate into template court forms, signs, and other communications with the public.*

4. *Don't assume to know anything about a person's gender identity or sexual orientation (among other things) by observation alone. Make it a practice to ask every person how they would like to bead dressed, so that you are treating everyone with the same level of respect and dignity.*

5. *Words are powerful – wield them wisely and thoughtfully.*

6. *If you make a mistake with someone's name or pronoun, apologize once and move on, and then do some work on your own to improve. One great tool for this is PracticeWithPronouns.com.*

7. *Cultivate a culture of accountability. We must work together to create better habits and practices of treating everyone with respect and dignity. Instead of calling people out for their mistakes – which makes them feel ashamed or judged and leads to defensiveness or resentment – try calling people in. When you see or hear someone make mistakes, invite them to understand how their words or behavior are incorrect or offensive and offer suggestions for doing things differently in the future.*

8. *Assume the best of people and the worst of systems of oppression. The world we live in often doesn't celebrate or even recognize trans people as human beings. We can each play a role in combatting systemic erasure of trans people, one act of ally ship at a time. We won't always do it perfectly, and we will make a few mistakes. But it's important that we keep trying and support one another in doing so.*

ANNUAL RAMADAN FRIENDSHIP DINNER

This past May, District Executive Andrew Isenberg welcomed community leaders and public official from many faiths to the Interfaith Ramadan Friendship Dinner held in the Ceremonial Courtroom . The annual event was sponsored by the Peace Island Institute, Buffalo UP and the Turkish Cultural Center.

The NYS Judicial Commission on Women in the Courts
8th Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee

INVITE YOU TO A

LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM

IN RECOGNITION OF

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"VISIONARY WOMEN: CHAMPIONS OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE"

Where we will learn about the Center for Resolution and Justice and recognize its Executive Director, Julie Loesch and Dr. Mary Finn as champions of peace and non-violence.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019
12:30 – 1:30 pm
CEREMONY COURTROOM,
92 FRANKLIN STREET, 2ND FLOOR
BUFFALO, NY 14202

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

ALL ARE WELCOME

Ninth Judicial District Committee to
Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Supreme Court Justice, Chair

Members: See attached list.

Counties served: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: 3/6/19, 6/11/19, 10/22/19, 12/3/19
Average Attendance: 20
Do you use Videoconferencing? No

2019 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month
The Committee again sponsored its annual essay contest open to all high school students in the Ninth Judicial District. The essay contest topic was: "Has the #MeToo movement touched your community or school? How have you and your fellow students responded?"

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
The Committee organized a presentation by Donna Palomba, President and Founder of Jane Doe No More, Inc., on "Empowering Survivors of Sexual Crimes."

Other Special Events or Activities
The Committee co-sponsored an event honoring the women Justices of the Appellate Division, Second Department to celebrate Women's History Month.

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email, Mail, and Flyer

Who and how many attended? Judges, attorneys, public officials, bar association officers, school personnel and family members of the contest winners were in attendance at the 2019 annual essay contest breakfast - approximately 50 in all.

Was there any press before or after? Yes

Future Plans

Meetings dates for planned or projected events for 2020:
March, June, September, and December

Special Events & Educational Programs
The Committee will again host its annual essay contest to celebrate Women's History Awareness Month in 2020 and will sponsor a domestic violence month program.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020?
Pro-bono representation in matrimonial disputes.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women?
Breastfeeding Space: There is only one dedicated breastfeeding space for employees in the Westchester County Courthouse and it is not easily or always accessible. Language access/interpreters: availability, quality, or general usage of interpreters, both within and outside of the courtroom.

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes. Judicial education refresher trainings for new law clerks.

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse?
Recent developments in foreclosure law and uncontested matrimonial cases.

Areas of success during 2019 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts.

The Committee was an integral part of the event Honoring the Women Justices of the Appellate Division, Second Department in celebration of Women's History Month. We look forward to our continued involvement in the courthouse community.

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations, Colleges, and Domestic Violence Organizations

Celeste M. Bailey, Esq. Principal Court Attorney Chambers of Hon. Lori Currier Woods, J.F.C., A.J.S.C.	Amy Baldwin-Littman, Esq. Principal Law Clerk Chambers of Hon. Sandra B. Sciortino, J.S.C.	Karen T. Beltran, Esq. Assistant County Attorney Westchester County Law Department
Kim Berg, Esq. Founding Partner Gould & Berg, LLP	Natanya L. Briendel, Esq. Ret. Director, Westchester Division Pace Women's Justice Center	Gary Brown, Esq. Assistan Attorney General-in-Charge New York State Dept of Law
Professor Jay Carlisle Professor Pace Law School	Robin D. Carton, Esq. Partner Carton & Rosoff PC	Karen Cheeks Lomax, Esq. Chief Executive Officer My Sister's Place
Hon. Jeffrey Cohen Associate Justice Appellate Division, 2nd Dept.	Margaret I. Corchado, Esq. Assistant County Attorney Westchester County Law Department	Rev. Doris K. Dalton Chair County Human Rights Commission
Hon. Kathie Davidson Administrative Judge Ninth Judicial District	Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Esq. Chief Deputy County Attorney Westchester County Attorney's Office	Lisa Boslow Dorman, Esq. Principal Law Clerk Chambers of Hon. John P. Colangelo, J.S.C.
Jerrice Duckette-Epps, Esq. Deputy Director Westchester County Human Rights Commission	Jody Fay, Esq. Managing Vice President & Chief Counsel The Kelsey Company	Dolores Gebhardt, Esq. Partner McCarthy, Fingar, LLP
Angela Morcone Giannini Partner Fontana Giannini LLP	Claire Gutekunst, Esq. Executive Director Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert	Jacqueline Hattar, Esq. Partner Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP
Hon. Allen Hochberg Ret. Support Magistrate Westchester County Family Court	Maria Imperial, Esq. Chief Executive Officer YWCA White Plains	Hon. Linda Jamieson Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District
Cindy Kanusher, Esq. Executive Director Pace Women's Justice Center	Julie Kattan, Esq. Sole Practicioner New Rochelle, NY	Susan W. Kaufman, Esq. Matrimonial Practice Advisory and Rules Committee NYS Unified Court System
Mary Kelly, Esq. Founding Member Kelly & Knaplund	Milton Kreppel, Esq. Sole Practicioner New Rochelle, NY	Beth Levy, Esq. Senior Associate Counsel My Sister's Place
Hon. Tracy C. Mackenzie Family Court Judge Dutchess County Family Court	Keary Neary, Esq. Assistant District Attorney Westchester County District Attorney's Office	Karen R. Needleman, Esq. Chief Adminstrator for the Assigned Counsel Plan of Westchester County at the Legal Aid Society
John Nonna, Esq. County Attorney Westchester County	Christopher J. Peticca, Esq. Assistant Law Clerk Chambers of Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, J.S.C.	Laura J. Puhala, Esq. Associate Attorney Jaffe & Asher, LLP
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District	Jill Sandford, Esq. Chief Legal Officer FirstLight Fiber	Robi Schlaff, Esq. Director Westchester Office for Women
Hon. Thomas H. Scuccimarra Ret. Judge New York State Court of Claims	Joanne Sirotkin, Esq. Attorney-in-Charge Legal Services of the Hudson Valley	Hon. Mary Smith Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District
Hon. Christine Sproat Ret. Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District	Hon. John W. Sweeny, Jr. Ret. Associate Justice Appellate Division, 1st Dept.	Nicholas M. Ward-Willis, Esq. Principal Member Keane & Beane P.C.
Hon. Barry E. Warhit Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District	Charlotte Watson Executive Director NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts	Hon. Charles David Wood Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District
Amanda Zane, Esq. Supervising Attorney, Legal Helpline and Services Pace Women's Justice Center		

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
THE HONORABLE KATHIE E. DAVIDSON

Cordially Invites you to Celebrate

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019
12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Westchester County Courthouse
Joseph F. Gagliardi Ceremonial Courtroom, Room 200

Honoring the Women Justices of the Appellate Division, Second Department
The Honorable Francesca E. Connolly
The Honorable Linda Christopher
The Honorable Colleen Duffy
The Honorable Sondra miller
The Honorable Anita J. Florio

In Collaboration with
The 9th JD Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

****Special Remarks by Presiding Justice Alan D. Scheinkman****

~Light Refreshments will be Served~
RSVP ASAP TO: Maria-Alana Recine
at mrecine@nycourts.gov

Gender Fairness Committee Celebrates Women's History Month

By Christopher Peticca, Esq.

The Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts recognized the winners of its Annual High School Essay Contest at a breakfast held on May 10, 2019 in celebration of Women's History Month. Supreme Court Justices Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair of the Committee, and Charles D. Wood, Co-Chair of the Essay Contest Sub-Committee, presented the awards. The generosity of various professional organizations and bar associations enabled the committee to award cash prizes to the students. The essay topic was:.

> Has the #MeToo movement touched your community or school? How have you and your fellow students responded?

In the freshman/sophomore category, Valerie Lippin from Horace Greeley High School won first prize and Isabella Crow from Cornwall Central High School won second prize. In the junior/senior category, Stephanie Markowitz from Briarcliff High School won first prize and Lauren Hollander from Pawling High School won second prize. A special recognition prize was awarded to Emelyn Juenger from Irvington High School.

The students read their essays to the more than 50 assembled guests. Those in attendance included State Supreme Court Justices John P. Colangelo, Lawrence H. Ecker, Linda S. Jamieson, Janet C. Malone, O. Peter Sherwood, Mary H. Smith, Gretchen Walsh, and Charles D. Wood. Also in attendance were Hon. Francis Nicolai (Ret.), former Administrative Judge for the 9th Judicial District, Ken Jenkins, Deputy County Executive of Westchester County, James Schmitt, Town Supervisor for the Town of Pawling, and representatives of various local Bar Associations.

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.

Photo, left to right: Hon. Linda S. Jamieson, Isabella Crow, Lauren Hollander, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Valerie Lippin, Emelyn Juenger, and Hon. Charles D. Wood.

ANNUAL SPONSORS

Annual Platinum Sponsor
Sterling National Bank

Annual Silver Sponsors
BodnarMilone LLP
Cuddy & Feder LLP
Kurzman Eisenburg Corbin & Lever, LLP

Annual Bronze Sponsor
McCarthy Fingar LLP

*For information about our **Annual Sponsorship Program** please contact: ExecutiveDirector@wcbany.org.*

Gender Fairness Essay Contest Winners 2019

The Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts recognized the winners of its Annual High School Essay Contest at a breakfast held on May 10, 2019, in celebration of Women's History Month. Supreme Court Justice Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair of the Committee, presented the awards.

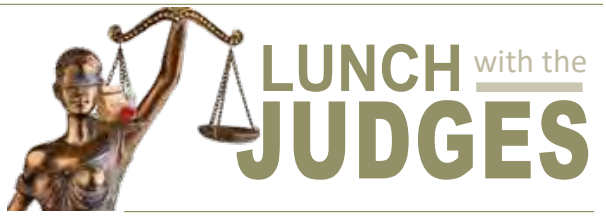
The generosity of various professional organizations and bar associations, including the Westchester County Bar Association, enabled the committee to award cash prizes to the students. The students read their essays to the more than 50 assembled guests.

PHOTO

- WCBA President, Hon. Linda S. Jamieson
- Isabella Crow, Cornwall Central Highschool, 10th Grade – 2nd Place, Freshman/Sophomore Category
- Lauren Hollander, Pawling High School, 12th Grade – 2nd Place, Junior/Senior Category
- Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman (Chair, 9th JD Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts)
- Valerie Lippin, Horace Greeley High School, 10th Grade – 1st Place, Freshman/Sophomore Category
- Emelyn Juenger, Irvington High School, 9th Grade – Special Recognition
- Hon. Charles D. Wood (Essay Contest Sub-Committee Co-Chair)

Not pictured is Stephanie Markowitz from Briarcliff High School, 11th Grade, who won 1st place in the Junior/Senior Category.

At the Courthouse . . .



LUNCH will be provided to attendees FREE OF CHARGE courtesy of our Lunch Sponsor:

LACHTMANCOHEN P.C.

A **FREE** series presented by WCBA's New Lawyers Section, Westchester Women's Bar Association and the New York State Trial Lawyers Association

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 | 12:30 pm

Join us for the *Lunch with the Judges* series featuring the Honorable Linda S. Jamieson and this month's special guest the Hon. Janet C. Malone, New York State Supreme Court Justice.

Hon. Linda S. Jamieson
WCBA President
New York State Supreme Court Justice

All are invited! A unique opportunity to have lunch with Judge Jamieson and her guest on the second Wednesday of each month in a casual setting with no formal agenda!

Westchester County Courthouse
Attorney Lounge/Center Room
111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, New York

Information: CLE@wcbany.org

THE LAW OFFICE OF
RONALD J. BRIEN LLC
FOR CONNECTICUT
REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS
Referral fees paid pursuant to Rule 1.5 of R.P.C.
28 Sound View Drive, Greenwich, CT 06830
203-661-7077 | ron@ronbrienlaw.com
www.ronbrienlaw.com

Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee

Mary Porter and Sheryl Randazzo, Esq., Chairs

Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Mary Porter, Esq., Court Attorney Referee and Sheryl L. Randazzo, Esq., Partner, Randazzo and Randazzo, LLP

Members: Please see attached list.

Counties served: Suffolk

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: January 3; March 7; April 4; May 2; June 6; September 10; October 3, and November 7

Average attendance: 20
Do you use Videoconferencing? Yes

2019 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month
Our event commemorating Women's History Month, entitled "Visionary Woman of Suffolk County: Champions of Peace and Non-Violence," was held on March 29, 2019 at the Cohalan Court Complex. The program recognized local leaders, organizations and advocates that pioneered family violence prevention efforts in Suffolk County. Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Deputy Bureau Chief Keri M. Herzog, Esq. was our special honoree. Other recognized organizations included The Long Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, The Retreat and Brighter Tomorrows. The Girl Scouts of Suffolk County shared their voices and insights on how to combat domestic violence going forward. The program was well attended and included remarks by the District Administrative Judge C. Randall Hinrichs, the Presentation of Colors by the New York State Courts Color Guard, and musical accompaniment the Sweet Adelines from Central Islip High School.

In addition, our Committee hosted and participated in a special panel discussion on “Women’s Issues in the Legal Profession” on March 7th at the Touro Law Center. The event was well-attended by law students and faculty, members of our Committee and other members of the Suffolk County Legal Community. All present were engaged, interactive and provided interesting insights to the discussion.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
In conjunction with the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association and the Suffolk County Academy of Law, our Committee provided three Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs at the Cohalan Court Complex designed as a series of lunch-and-learn programs. "Family Offenses vs. Criminal Complaint: How to Advise Your Client" held on October 16, 2019, "Beyond What You Think is Domestic Violence" held on October 22, 2019 which focused on domestic violence against the elderly and in the LGBTQ community, and "Assessing and Treating Children Affected by Domestic Violence" held

on October 29, 2019 were all well attended, educated attorneys and raised awareness of various issues surrounding domestic violence. The program organizers also accepted donations for the benefit of the domestic violence shelter run by The Retreat.

Other Special Events or Activities

Heart Health Awareness: Our Committee hosted two events to raise awareness about heart disease, the first held on February 14, 2019 at the Cromarty Courthouse and the second held on February 25, 2019 at the Cohalan Court Complex. Each event included distribution of heart health information, a free yoga class, blood pressure monitoring and cholesterol screenings.

Breast Cancer Awareness: Our Committee hosted two breast cancer awareness information tables aimed at educating court visitors about the importance of breast cancer screenings. Tables were hosted on October 29, 2019 in the Cohalan Court Complex and October 7, 2019 in the Cromarty Court Complex and included bilingual pamphlets with detection guidelines and cancer facts provided by the American Cancer Society and local hospitals.

Maintenance of Suffolk County's History of Women in the Judiciary: Our Committee, on an ongoing basis, has assumed the responsibility of maintaining a history of women who have been and continue to become members of the judiciary in Suffolk County. Our Women's History Month Subcommittee updates and maintains a digital video history which is displayed annually on a revolving loop in the Cohalan Court Complex throughout Women's History Month and at our annual Women's History Month event.

Cohalan Children's Center: Our Committee continues to support the full-day Children's Center at the Cohalan Complex in a myriad of ways. Annually, we support the "Cohalan Cares for Kids" Fundraiser, which is held at the Suffolk County Bar Association, as well as attending and contributing to the regularly scheduled Bagels and Books held at the Children Center in both the Spring and Fall. In addition, our members are some of the most generous donors to the various drives conducted for the benefit of the Children's Center, including collections for back-to-school and Thanksgiving, the annual Adopt-a-Family at the holidays, hats/scarves/mittens in the winter and books, snacks and diapers on an ongoing basis.

Mental Health Awareness: During our May 2nd Committee meeting, representatives from Suffolk County's Division of Community Mental Hygiene were present – namely Director Ann Marie Csorny and Clinical Director James Graziano – and reported on issues of what happens after a court determination with respect to mental health care within correctional facilities. Our guests were able to share their experience, answer questions and collectively brainstorm with our membership in trying to understand and improve upon the state of mental health care within the system.

Men's Health Awareness: Our Committee annually participates in activities to raise awareness about prostate cancer and general male health. The 2019 activities were held on June 18th at Cohalan Court Complex and the Cromarty Court Complex and

included PSA Screening opportunities and distribution of information to court employees and the public with respect to prostrate cancer and other health related matters for men.

“What to Expect When You’re Expecting a Law Degree”: After the prior year’s success, our Committee once again organized and participated in a collaborative panel presentation with Touro Law School’s Women’s Bar Association on October 3, 2019 at the Law Center. Eight Committee members from diverse backgrounds were present for a discussion with Touro students about their experience, perspectives and advice for entering the practice of law. The dialogue was enthusiastic on all sides, all present were engaged, and ongoing networking opportunities resulted for those present.

Meeting Speaker: During our Committee’s November 7th meeting, Feride Castillo, the Co-Founder and Director of Empower Collaborative of LI, spoke to us about the topic of human trafficking. Ms. Castillo educated the Committee on the basics of how to identify human trafficking within our community, who it impacts and how and how to potentially address it. All members present were impacted by this extraordinary opportunity to take on this very pressing and timely subject matter.

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email, Flyer, and through our co-hosts' networks, which also may include newsletters and listservs

Who and how many attended?

Varied audiences and attendance per event. The events typically range from 50 to 100 people

Was there any press before or after? Yes

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020:
January 9 (Holiday event); February 6; March 5; April 2; May 7; June 4

Women’s History Month Event: Scheduled for March 20th, 2020, this year’s event is entitled “Valiant Women of the Vote,” which will be held at the Cohalan Court Complex. The program will include an art contest for Girl Scouts of Suffolk County, special recognition to long-time Committee member and former chair – the Honorable Gaetan Lozito, and a keynote speaker from the Suffolk Legal of Voters.

Childcare Center Awareness Event: Our Childcare Center Subcommittee is working on an event for the Children’s Center at the Cohalan Court Complex to raise awareness of the availability of free childcare at the Courthouse. Literature about the Childcare Center will be distributed by volunteers one or more days during the week of May 4th-May 10th, 2020, including highlighting the Childcare Center’s book distribution program

and literacy initiatives. This week was selected because it coincides with National Childcare Provider Week and National Book Week.

In addition, Heart Health Awareness (2/14/2020 & 2/24/2020), Mental Health Awareness, Prostate Cancer Screenings (June 2020), Breast Cancer Awareness (October 2020) and Domestic Violence Awareness (October 2020) are planned for the current year.

Concerns

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020?
Our Committee identifies an ongoing need to improve upon the delivery of service and access to justice for transgender individuals, particularly with regard to sensitivity to gender identity and accommodations for testing and other personal needs of all individuals in accord with a person's gender identity. Additionally, the issues presented by the prevalence of insufficient awareness and sensitivity to human trafficking in our midst are also important and requires ongoing attention within the court system.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers, Language Access, and Improved awareness of available breastfeeding locations.

Do you see unmet training needs?
Yes. Sensitivity to Transgender issues; i.e., use of proper pronouns, implicit bias, etc.; Post-conviction Relief; Sealing motions

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse?
Transgender sensitivity training for lawyers, judges, and court staff.

Training for lawyers and judges on how to recognize sex trafficking victims and the services available and the interplay between trafficking, drug abuse and domestic violence.

Please share any areas of success during 2019 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the court:
The development of a plan for the placement of a lactation pod in the Cohalan Courthouse.

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations, Domestic Violence Organizations, Touro Law School

SUFFOLK COUNTY JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS

Andrea A. Amoa, Esq.
Janine Barber-Dalli
Hon. Toni Bean
Myra H. Berman, Esq.
Hon. Isabel Buse
CO Ann Marie Calise
Lisa Jusino Calla, Esq.
Victoria Campos-Gaylor, Esq.
ADA Michelle Chiuchiolo
ADA Nancy Clifford
Kathryn Coward
Captain Donald Curaba
Patricia DePasquale
Donna Dionne-Strein
Cynthia L. Doerler
Diane K. Farrell, Esq.
Hon. Aletha V. Fields
Mary Ann Filosa, Esq.
Hon. Patricia Grant Flynn
Colleen Fondulis, Esq.
Janet Ford, Esq.
Susan Fox
Stephanie Giancristofaro, Esq.
Brette P. Haefeli, Esq.
Debra Hampson
Dawn L. Hargraves, Esq.
Elizabeth Harrington, Esq.
Cheryl Helfer, Esq.
ADA Keri M. Herzog
Maureen Hordy
Hon. Kathryn L. Howard
Amy Hsu, Esq.
Laurie Hulbert
LaToya R.A. James, Esq.
Darlene Jorif-Mangane
Hon. Cheryl Joseph
PO David Juan
Elizabeth Justesen, Esq.
Hon. Chris Ann Kelley
Hon. Karen Kerr
Hon. Linda J. Kevins
Hon. Deborah Kooperstein
Sarah Jane LaCova
Hon. Meridith E. Lafler
Hon. Kerri N. Lechtrecker
Caroline Levy, Esq.
ADA Catherine Loeffler
Katherine T. Logiudice
Hon. Caren L. Loguercio
Dawn A. Lott, Esq.
Catherine Lovly, Esq.
Hon. Gaetan B. Lozito
Dawn Maletta
Chief Eileen Mallon
Victoria McDonough
Leslie McLoughlin
Hon. Jennifer Mendelsohn
Kathleen Meyer
Carmen Mitchko
Lt. Karen Morro
Linda Morrone, Esq.
Laurette D. Mulry, Esq.
Melissa Negron-Wiener, Esq.
Agnes Neldner, Esq.
Andrea Neubauer
Maeghan O'Keefe, Esq.
Hon. Rosann O. Orlando
Kaitlyn Pickford - auto response
Mary Porter
Hon. Deborah Poulos
Lynn Poster-Zimmerman, Esq.
Anita Prudenti, Esq.
Andrea Ramos-Topper
Sheryl L. Randazzo, Esq.
Ronald C. Richardson
Hon. Martha M. Rogers
Beverly Saldivias
Major David Santiago
Linda Scrio
Tara A. Scully, Esq.
Hon. Sandra L. Sgroi
Kim Smith, Esq.
Shari Lee Sugarman, Esq.
Hon. Marian R. Tinari
Megan M. Tomlin, Esq.
Margaret Trainor, Esq.
Hon. Hertha C. Trotto
Janessa M. Trotto, Esq.
ADA Stephanie Tuorto
Cynthia S. Vargas, Esq.
Carrie Vasiluth, Esq.
Patricia Waite, Esq.
Hon. Mary M. Werner
Hon. Theresa B. Whelan
Hon. Karen M. Wilutis
Cheryl M. Zimmer, Esq.
Nicole Zuvich, Esq.

The Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

and

Hon. C. Randall Hinrichs
Suffolk County District Administrative Judge

invite you to join us in celebrating

Women's History Month 2019

"Visionary Women of Suffolk County: Champions of Peace and Non-Violence"

recognizing the extraordinary efforts of pioneer advocates of social change in the mission to prevent family violence in Suffolk County

Keynote Speaker

Hon. Mary Werner, Justice
Retired, former District Administrative Judge
Supreme Court, Suffolk County

the program will include:
crediting the various entities and people who led the early charge against domestic violence and sharing several young voices from local Girl Scouts in the continuing peaceful fight against bullying and violence

Special Honoree
for her exceptional leadership in Suffolk County's efforts
to eradicate domestic violence in our midst

Keri M. Herzog, Esq.
Deputy Bureau Chief
Child Abuse & Domestic Violence Bureau
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

Friday, March 29, 2019 – 12:30 p.m.

Cohalan Court Complex – Central Jury Room
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, New York

Light refreshments will be served

The Suffolk County District Administrative Judge's
Women in the Courts Committee

&

Stony Brook University Hospital

present

Heart Health
2019

Thursday, February 14, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Second Floor Mezzanine
Cohalan Court Complex - Central Islip

Stop by for blood pressure and simple cholesterol screening.
(Must be 18 years or older)
Available to All: Heart health literature and materials
Wear red to show you "Have a Heart"

Free Beginner Yoga Class for Employees!

February 14, 2019
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Green Conference Room, 2nd Floor District Court
Cohalan Court Complex - Central Islip

The yoga class is open to all employees
and will operate on a first-come, first-serve basis due to limited space.
Advanced registration required:
Contact Linda Scrio at lscrio@nycourts.gov
Bring your yoga mat and a towel; water will be supplied.

The Suffolk County District Administrative Judge's
Women in the Courts Committee,

The Suffolk County Court Officers Benevolent Association

&

Southampton Hospital

PRESENT

HEART HEALTH - 2019

Monday, February 25, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
First Floor Lobby
Cromarty Court Complex – Riverhead

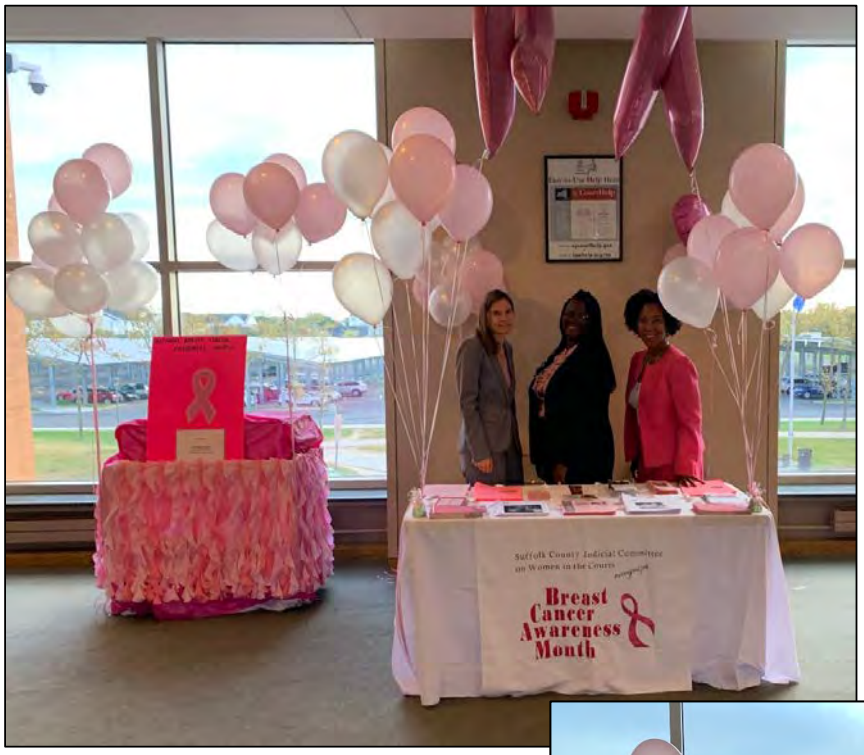
Stop by for blood pressure and simple cholesterol screening.
(Must be 18 years or older)
Available to All: Heart health literature and materials
Wear red to show you "Have a Heart"

Free Beginner Yoga Class for Employees!

Monday, February 25, 2019
12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Training Room
Cromarty Court Complex - Riverhead

Advanced registration required:
Contact CO Ann Marie Calise at acalise@nycourts.gov.
Bring your yoga mat and a towel; water will be supplied.

Central Islip Breast Cancer Awareness Month Event



Riverhead Breast Cancer Awareness Month Event

The Suffolk County District Administrative Judge's
Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts
And The Suffolk County Court Officers Benevolent Association

presents

FREE PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

Tuesday, June 18, 2019
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

John P. Cohalan, Jr. Court Complex
2nd Floor Mezzanine
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, New York

Integrated Medical Foundation will provide PSA blood tests **free of charge** for men not previously diagnosed with Prostate Cancer.

By appointment only; space is limited!

To make an appointment, please call or text:
Probation Officer David Juan (516) 361-4957
or call Major David Santiago (631) 740-3618

June is Men's Health Month!

Please stop by the outreach table for free information and literature.

Integrated Medical Foundation
IMFCARES.ORG

The Suffolk County District Administrative Judge's
Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts
And The Suffolk County Court Officers Benevolent Association

presents

FREE PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

Tuesday, June 18, 2019
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Arthur M. Cromarty Court Complex
4th Floor
210 Center Drive
Riverhead, New York

Integrated Medical Foundation will provide PSA blood tests **free of charge** for men not previously diagnosed with Prostate Cancer.

By appointment only; space is limited!

To make an appointment, please call
Captain Donald Curaba (631) 852-2614

June is Men's Health Month!

Please stop by the outreach table for free information and literature.

Integrated Medical Foundation
IMFCARES.ORG

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE!

Items can be dropped off at The Children's Center, 2nd Floor, Cohalan Court Complex.

The Suffolk County Children's Center

We are collecting the following Back to School Supplies:

- **Book Bags**
- **Folders**
- **Binders**
- **Crayons**
- **Colored Pencils**
- **Glue Sticks**
- **Notebooks**
- **Markers**
- **Erasers**
- **Highlighters**
- **Kids Scissors**
- **Pencil Cases**
- **Hand sanitizer**
- **Clipboards**

SPONSORED BY WOMEN IN THE COURTS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION AND TOURO LAW'S WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING A LAW DEGREE

FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE BAR AND BENCH IN SUFFOLK COUNTY WILL MEET AND SPEAK WITH PROSPECTIVE LAWYERS AND FUTURE COLLEAGUES.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3
5:45 - 6:45 PM | TOURO LAW
FCR/BDR *Light refreshments will be served.*

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Hon. Keren Kerr '89 - *Supervising Judge, 10th Judicial District, Suffolk County*
Laurette Mulry '99 - *Attorney In Charge, Legal Aid of Suffolk County*
Agnes Neldner-Ratuszny '03 - *Legal Director at Legal Aid Society, Suffolk County*
Maeghan O'Keefe, Esq. - *Principal Law Clerk, Judge Horowitz*
Mary Porter, Esq. - *Court Attorney Referee, 10th Judicial District Suffolk County, NY*
Sheryl Randazzo, Esq. - *Private Attorney*
Cynthia Vargas, Esq. - *Private Attorney*
Stephanie Tuorto '14 - *Assistant District Attorney, Suffolk County DA's Office*

TOURO COLLEGE
JACOB D. FUCHSBERG LAW CENTER

TO RSVP, PLEASE EMAIL EVENTS@TOUROLAW.EDU.

Suffolk County
Women's Bar Association

SCWBA

&

The Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Domestic Violence Month Awareness

Family Offenses vs Criminal Complaint: How to advise your client

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Join us in this extraordinary partnership effort during Domestic Violence Month for a series of CLE programs that focuses on the impact domestic violence has on the lives of survivors and resources available. This lunch and learn program focuses on family offenses vs crimes; what to do if the complaint is civil to provide relief and end the violence, interviewing the victims, drafting the petitions, and use of evidence.

Faculty:
Roseann Orlando, Esq., Court Attorney Referee, Family Court
Kathy Small, Esq., Mazzara and Small, P.C.

Moderators:
Hon. Isabel Buse, (ret.) Support Magistrate
Shari Lee Sugarman, Esq., President, Suffolk County Women's Bar Association

Please consider donating an item for
The Retreat Shelter
(toiletry items, kids socks and pj's)

Registration: Domestic Violence 10-16-19
BY MAIL: Return registration with payment to: Suffolk Academy of Law, 560 Wheeler Rd., Hauppauge, NY 11788/ BY FAX: 631-234-5899/ BY PHONE: 631-234-5588
ON-LINE: https://www.scba.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail** _____

☐ SCBA Member $45 ☐ Non-Member Attorney $60

☐ Law Student $0 ☐ 12-Session Pass ☐ Scholars Club ☐ 18B

☐ **Cash** ☐ **Check** (payable to Suffolk Academy of Law)

☐ **Credit Card** https://www.scba.org

TIME:
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Registration begins 12:15 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS: A light lunch will be served

LOCATION:

John P. Cohalan, Jr. Courthouse
400 Carleton Avenue,
Central Jury Room, Central Islip

MCLE CREDIT: 1.5 Professional Practice [Transitional and Non-Transitional]

INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL:
All levels

PRICING:

SCBA Member	**$45**
Non-Member Attorney	**$60**

Program will be not be Webcast or recorded

At Door Registration: $10 additional.

FINANCIAL AID: Call 631-234-5588 for information.

MATERIALS: Materials provided electronically.

Suffolk County
Women's Bar Association

SCWBA

&

The Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Domestic Violence Month Awareness

Beyond What you Think is Domestic Violence

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Join us in this extraordinary partnership effort during Domestic Violence Month for a series of CLE programs that focuses on the impact domestic violence has on the lives of survivors and resources available. This lunch and learn program focuses on meeting the needs of underserved populations such as the elderly and the LGBTQ populations.

Faculty:
Arlene Markarian
Unit Chief, Elder Abuse Unit
Nassau County District Attorney's Office

Francine H. Moss, Esq.
Judd & Moss, P.C.

Moderator:
Hon. John J. Leo, J.S.C.

Please consider donating an item for
The Retreat shelter
(men and women's toiletry items, kids socks and pj's)

Registration: Domestic Violence 10-22-19
BY MAIL: Return registration with payment to: Suffolk Academy of Law, 560 Wheeler Rd., Hauppauge, NY 11788/ BY FAX: 631-234-5899/ BY PHONE: 631-234-5588
ON-LINE: https://www.scba.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail** _____

☐ SCBA Member $45 ☐ Non-Member Attorney $60

☐ Law Student $0 ☐ 12-Session Pass ☐ Scholars Club ☐ 18B

☐ **Cash** ☐ **Check** (payable to Suffolk Academy of Law)

☐ **Credit Card** https://www.scba.org

TIME:
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Registration begins 12:15 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS: A light lunch will be served

LOCATION:

John P. Cohalan, Jr. Courthouse
400 Carleton Avenue,
Central Jury Room, Central Islip

MCLE CREDIT: 1.5 Professional Practice [Transitional and Non-Transitional]

INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL:
All levels

PRICING:

SCBA Member	**$45**
Non-Member Attorney	**$60**

Program will be not be Webcast or recorded

At Door Registration: $10 additional.

FINANCIAL AID: Call 631-234-5588 for information.

MATERIALS: Materials provided electronically.

Suffolk County
Women's Bar Association

&

The Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Domestic Violence Month Awareness

Assessing and Treating Children Affected by Domestic Violence

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Join us in this extraordinary partnership effort during Domestic Violence Month. This CLE program focuses on the impact domestic violence has on the impact of a child's exposure to domestic violence.

Faculty:
Dr. Robert Goldman, JD, Psy.D

Moderator:
Hon. Isabel Buse, (ret.) Support Magistrate

Please consider donating an item for The Retreat shelter
(men & women's toiletry items, kids socks and pj's)

Registration: Domestic Violence 10-29-19
BY MAIL: Return registration with payment to: Suffolk Academy of Law, 560 Wheeler Rd., Hauppauge, NY 11788/ BY FAX: 631-234-5899/ BY PHONE: 631-234-5588
ON-LINE: https://www.scba.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail** _____

☐ SCBA Member $45 ☐ Non-Member Attorney $60

☐ Law Student $0 ☐ 12-Session Pass ☐ Scholars Club ☐ 18B

☐ **Cash** ☐ **Check** (payable to Suffolk Academy of Law)

☐ **Credit Card** https://www.scba.org

TIME:
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Registration begins 12:15 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS: A light lunch will be served

LOCATION:

John P. Cohalan, Jr. Courthouse
400 Carleton Avenue,
Central Jury Room, Central Islip

MCLE CREDIT: 1.5 Professional Practice [Transitional and Non-Transitional]

INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL:
All levels

PRICING:

SCBA Member	**$45**
Non-Member Attorney	**$60**

Program will be not be Webcast or recorded

At Door Registration: $10 additional.

FINANCIAL AID: Call 631-234-5588 for information.

MATERIALS: Materials provided electronically.

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER AT COHALAN COURT

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Please help us to spread the meaning of the holiday season by donating the following items:

- Supermarket gift cards
- Mashed potatoes
- Canned Vegetables & Fruit
- Cranberry sauce
- Gravy
- Stuffing
- Cake and Cornbread Mix

Items can be dropped off in the designated bins or at :

The Children's Center

Room A236 Second Floor, Cohalan Court Complex

For additional information please call 631-208-5724 or artopper@eacinc.org

~Thank you for your support~

Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District, Supreme Court Committee

Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez and Josephine Bastone, Chairs

Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District

Chairs: Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez and Hon. Josephine M. Bastone

Members: 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, and social services advocates.

Counties served: Bronx

2019 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: March 12, 2019; April 17, 2019; June 13, 2019; and October 17, 2019 and various additional subcommittee dates
Average Attendance: 10
Do you use Videoconferencing? Yes

2019 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month
Our annual awards program was held on March 25, 2019 in room 819 of Bronx Supreme Court, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, N. Y. We gave the Woman of Achievement award to SPC Kelsie Stark for her advancement of the “Me Too” movement in our Military. The EVOLVE award was presented to several distinguished students. This award was created to recognize outstanding female high school students who have demonstrated a unique ability to rise above daunting circumstances in their lives or who have demonstrated a combination of great scholarship and volunteerism. In addition, we awarded certificates to other Women of Distinction, court system employees from each individual court, who have impressed the Committee by their job performance, or because they have overcome odds with supreme grace. Report of event, flyer, and program attached.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
We held our annual Domestic Violence Workplace Education Day program on October 29, 2019 in the Bronx Hall of Justice. Retired NYC Police Officer Janet Caraballo spoke on Domestic Violence. The flyer is attached.

Other Special Events or Activities
1. We held our third LGBTQ event on June 20, 2019 and intend to sponsor more such events in the future. See report of event, flyer, program, and press photo, attached.
2. Together with the Bronx County Bar Association, we held a Breast Cancer Awareness event on October 25, 2019. See attached flyer.3. We held our first Take Your Child To Work Day on April 25, 2019 and intend to sponsor this event in the future. See flyer attached.

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email, Mail, and Flyer

Who and how many attended?
Approximately 120 people attended the Women's History Month program.

Approximately 110 people attended the Breast Cancer Awareness and LGBTQ programs.

Approximately 25 people attended the Domestic Violence program.

Was there any press before or after? Yes

Future Plans[1]

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020:
Periodic full committee meetings, with subcommittee meetings as needed.

Special Events & Educational Programs:
Women's History Month; Domestic Violence Awareness Month

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020? Continued need to advance the fair treatment of both women and men.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women?
Language access/interpreters (availability, quality, or general usage of interpreters, both within and outside of the courtroom)

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00–2:00 in the courthouse?
Committee Chair Hon. Josephine M. Bastone was the MCLE Liaison to the Judicial Institute from theBronx County Courts. Video-simulcasts of Judicial Institute lectures are offered throughout the year,as well as the occasional live lecture sponsored by the Gender Fairness Committee, The ColumbiaSociety, The Bronx County Bar Association, or by other court personnel. For example, in recent years, MCLE programs have been presented in-house on elder law, sex trafficking, the PACT program, etc. Although we did not sponsor an MCLE program during this report period, we do intend to continuedoing so in the future.

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
The Columbia Society, The Bronx County Bar Association, Women's Alliance of the Bronx Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association. Also, local business that have supported our event.

[1] Subject to change at the discretion of Hon. Bahaati E. Pitt, the incoming chair.

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
AND
THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OF THE BRONX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Present

BREAST cancer

AWARENESS MONTH PROGRAM

October 25, 2019
12:45 -2:00

GUEST SPEAKERS

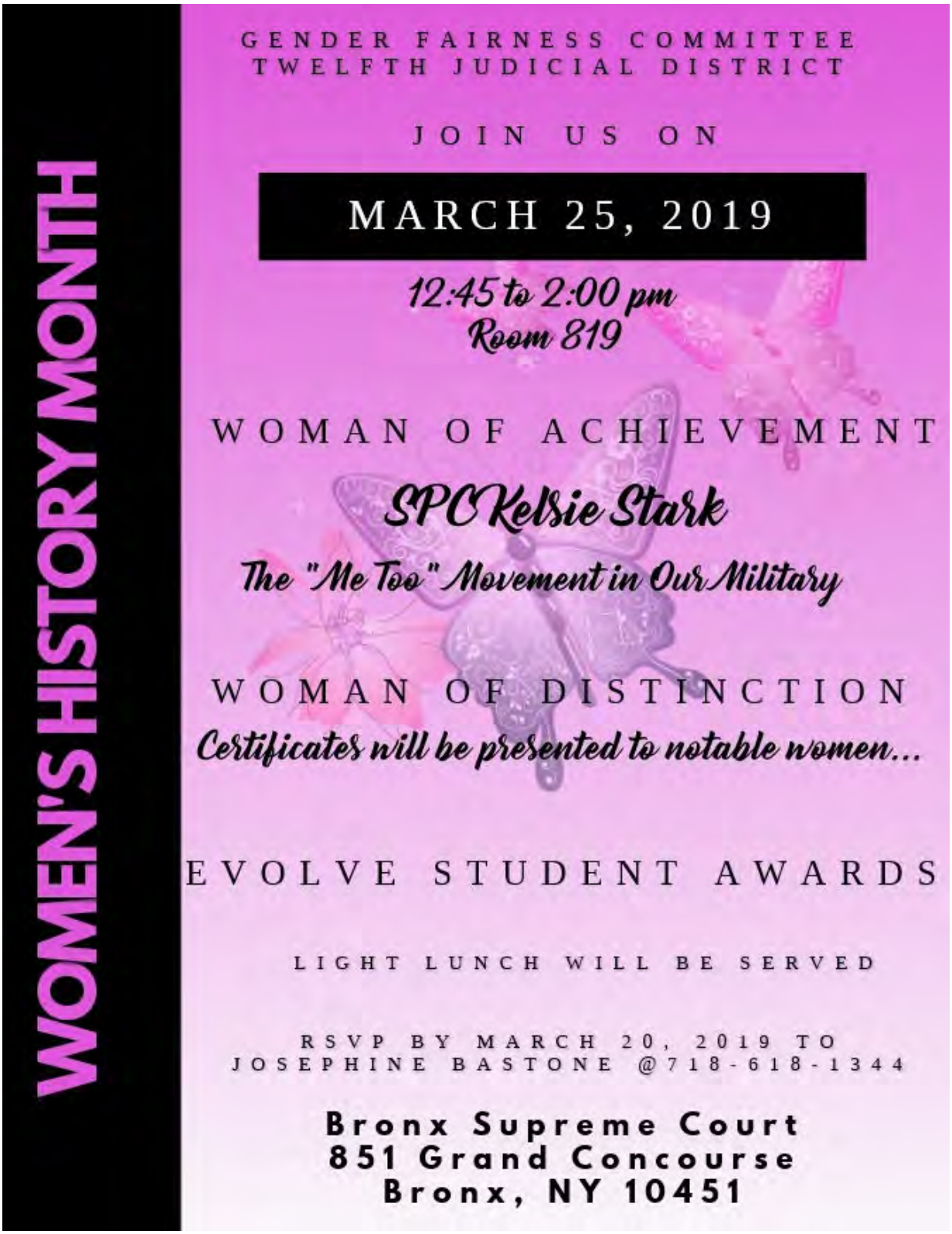
ELIGIA CARRADERO
SURVIVOR

YADHIRA GONZALEZ-TAYLOR, ESQ.
SURVIVOR

DANA TORREGIANO, MSOT, CT- LANA
CHIEF OF REHABILITATION
BREAST CANCER & LYMPHEDEMA REHABILITATION

BRONX SUPREME COURT
851 GRAND CONCOURSE
ROOM 819

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED


WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JOIN US ON
MARCH 25, 2019
12:45 to 2:00 pm
Room 819
WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT
SPC Kelsie Stark
The "Me Too" Movement in Our Military
WOMAN OF DISTINCTION
Certificates will be presented to notable women...
EVOLVE STUDENT AWARDS
LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED
RSVP BY MARCH 20, 2019 TO
JOSEPHINE BASTONE @718-618-1344
Bronx Supreme Court
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451

The Gender Fairness Committee - 12th Judicial District
&
The Bronx Women's Bar Association

PRESENT

DOMESITIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS PROGRAM

October 29, 2019
12:45pm to 2:00pm

GUEST SPEAKER

RETIRED NYC POLICE OFFICER
Janet Caraballo

THEY DO IT BECAUSE
THEY LOVE YOU
NO ONE HAS STOPPED THEM
THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE.

Bronx Hall of Justice
265 East 161st Street
Room 691

A Collaborative Event Sponsored By:

Bronx Supreme Court
Bronx Surrogate Court
The Bronx County Bar Association Women's Alliance Committee
The Columbia Society
&
The Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District

Take Your Child To Work Day

April 25, 2019

If you are interested in having your child participate, please provide the following information:

Name, Age, & Gender of the Child
Employee's Name, Cell Phone #, E-Mail, & Work Location

Please R.S.V.P. By Monday, April 15th to:

Josephine M. Bastone - JBASTONE@NYCOURTS.GOV
Elix Madera-Fliegelman - EMADERA@NYCOURTS.GOV

The Gender Fairness Committee – Twelfth Judicial District
and
The Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission of the New York Courts
present

COMING OUT, ALIVE:
"Experiencing the ACS and Family Court System as an LGBTQ Youth"

PANELISTS

Hon. Anthony Cannataro
Administrative Judge, New York City Civil Court
and Co-Chair of the Failla LGBTQ Commission

Eddie Pabon
Author of "The Sun Will Rise in December"
Co-Founder of Voyage to Love Foundation

Hon. Michael Milsap
Judge of the Family Court
Bronx County

Arya Malave-Melendez
Outreach Specialist & HIV Counselor at
Destination Tomorrow

MODERATOR

Matthew P. Raso, Esq.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019
851 GRAND CONCOURSE, ROOM 819
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY:
THE BRONX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
THE WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

ALL ARE WELCOME!!! LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

Gender Fairness Committee, New York
County, Supreme Court, Civil Term

Hon. Deborah Kaplan and Gregory Testa, Esq., Chairs

Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Branch

Chairs: Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, First Judicial District, and Gregory F. Testa, Esq., Associate Court Attorney

Members: Valerie Qualls, Secretary, Simone Abrams, Kelechi Acholonu, Esq., Doina Rosu Almazon, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Michelle Furey-D'Esposito, Patricia Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Judith Gische, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Steven Helfont, Esq., Yesenia Herrera, Cecily Hernandez, Hon. Lynn Kotler, Joan Levenson, Esq., Manhoor Misbah, Esq., Hon. Eileen Rakower, Judith Rifkin, Esq., Sheila Riley-Aultman, Marie Rosemy, Hon. Lori Sattler, Hon. Lisa Sokoloff, Hon. O. Peter Sherwood, Gloria Smyth-Godinger, Hon. Milton Tingling, John Werner, Esq., Shadai Wilkins
Counties served: New York

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: Our committee holds meetings or special events on a monthly basis.
Average Attendance: 20
Do you use Videoconferencing? Yes

2019 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month

Our committee hosted its annual Women's History Month Program on April 17, 2019. The program featured a presentation by Jacqueline M. Ebanks, Executive Director, Commission on Gender Equity, Office of the Mayor, The City of New York. Jacqueline Ebanks discussed her experience working for over 30 years to promote economic and social justice for women, girls, and marginalized communities. Ms. Ebanks discussed the Commission's strategic plan to advance gender equity in New York City and its goal for the implementation of best practices in gender equitable policies and programs.

Following the lecture, the committee presented its annual Women's History Month Service Awards to two members of our courthouse. The committee presented its Distinguished Jurist Award to the Honorable Laura E. Drager of the Supreme Court, Matrimonial Division, for her many years of excellent service. Elaine Draghi was presented with the Distinguished Service Award. Elaine, who presently works as a Court Clerk Specialist, began working for the court system as a Court Officer, and has served as a Senior Court Officer, Senior Court Clerk, Associate Court Clerk, Principal Court Clerk, and Case Management Coordinator. She is much respected by judges, staff, and members of the Bar for her courteous and knowledgeable assistance.

The committee also welcomed members of the Women in the Law section of the New York State Bar Association who discussed their display entitled "A Centennial Commemoration of Women's Suffrage and the Achievement of Legal Rights" which was exhibited inside the entryway at 60 Centre Street.

After the presentation of the awards, a reception followed with refreshments.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

On November 22, 2019, our committee hosted the 2019 Domestic Violence Awareness Program. This year, the committee featured a special presentation by Jennifer Herbert, Associate Vice President of Programs of the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation. Founded and named after Major League Baseball's Joe Torre and his wife Ali, the Safe At Home Foundation provides services in schools to children exposed to violence including domestic violence, child abuse, teen dating abuse, and sexual assault in order to empower them to live healthy lives free of violence.

During her presentation, Ms. Herbert explained how the Safe at Home Foundation established a multi-faceted school-based program, known as Margaret's Place, with the understanding that protective factors can decrease or mitigate the harm associated with exposure to trauma and violence. Following the lecture, Ms. Herbert was presented with the Domestic Violence Awareness Program’s Certificate of Appreciation. Guests enjoyed a closing reception in which they had the opportunity to ask Ms. Herbert questions about her work.

Other Special Events or Activities

Eliminating the Gender Gap in Commercial Litigation CLE

On April 9, 2019, our committee co-sponsored the “Eliminating the Gender Gap in Commercial Litigation” CLE educational program along with the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York’s Diversity Committee. This program addressed the role of female attorneys in civil litigation and what judges, corporate counsels, and law firms are doing to close the gender gap. Speakers included Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Hon. Saliann Scarpulla, and Tracee E. Davis, Esq.

Bring Your Children to Work Day

On May 3, 2019, our committee hosted its annual "Bring Your Children to Work Day" program. This event welcomes children of employees to an educational day in the courthouse.

Upon arriving, the children were greeted to a breakfast buffet and listened to a presentation featuring courthouse employees who discussed their roles within the judicial system. The children also participated in mock trials with Supreme Court Justices in which the children played the role of judges, jurors, witnesses, and attorneys. The program concluded with a pizza lunch and a security presentation. Each attendee was presented with a certificate of attendance and a gift bag.

The Holocaust Remembrance Program

On May 8, 2019, our committee, along with the Jewish Lawyers' Guild, co-sponsored the annual Holocaust Remembrance Program. The program featured presentations by the Hon. Martin Shulman and the Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan. Judge Kaplan read a brief biography of each family which detailed their experiences during and after the Holocaust. A candle lighting ceremony by family members followed each biographical reading.

The keynote presentation was given by Seymour Kaplan. Mr. Kaplan was 17 years old when he enlisted during World War II and served as a machine gunner with the 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion attached to the 42nd Infantry Division and was among the liberators of the Dachau Concentration Camp. Mr. Kaplan shared with the audience his experiences during World War II and his continued mission to educate younger generations about the Holocaust.

Following the lecture, a musical performance was presented by the SAR High School Choir. The Amud Aish Memorial Museum provided an exhibit which was featured in the rotunda of 60 Centre Street during the week of the program.

Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event

On June 28, 2019, the Annual Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event was held in 60 Centre Street's historic rotunda. This traditional event, which our committee co-sponsors, is named in honor of Caren Aronowitz, a beloved court employee who passed away and who was instrumental in organizing many courthouse events. The event, which is co-sponsored by various bar associations and community organizations, features a buffet of food celebrating different cultures, musical performances, a performance by the New York State Court Bagpipe and Drum Corps, and a slideshow celebrating the diversity which makes up our courthouses.

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email, Flyer, and direct contact with bar associations, colleges, law schools, and nonprofit organizations. Email reminders are sent to the courts. Advertisements are posted in the New York Law Journal as well as on the court's intranet.

Who and how many attended?
Our events generally attract about 100 people and are open to members of the public. The events are attended by judges, judicial and non-judicial staff, attorneys, bar association members, college and law school professors, students, and members of the community.
Was there any press before or after? Yes

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020:
We will have a committee planning meeting on February 18 to organize spring and summer events.

Special Events & Educational Programs
We hope to host our annual events which include the Domestic Violence Awareness Program, Women's History Month Program, the Holocaust Remembrance Program, Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event, and Bring Your Children to Work Day. We also would like to plan a CLE.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Gender equality, gender equity, and domestic violence

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Supervised visitation and the lack of programs for moderate means or indigent parents.

Do you see unmet training needs? No

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? Elder abuse and domestic violence

Areas of success during 2019 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:
Our committee's greatest achievement in 2019 was opening a dialogue regarding gender equity by hosting a lecture event, as well as co-sponsoring a CLE on the topic.

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations, Colleges, Domestic Violence Organizations, Non-profit Organizations, and Law Schools

ELIMINATING THE GENDER GAP IN COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

This program will address the role of female attorneys in civil litigation and focus on what judges, corporate counsels and law firms are doing to close the gender gap in high value commercial litigation disputes.

When:	**Tuesday, April 9, 2019**
Where:	**NYS Supreme Court, 60 Centre St. (room 300), NY, NY**
Time:	**1:00 p.m. (Registration); 1:10-2:30 p.m. (Program)**
CLE:	**Free 1.5 CLE credits: 1 Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias & 0.5 Ethics and Professionalism***

RSVP Required: **https://bit.ly/2WwwJ1M**

Moderator:

Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan

Administrative Judge, Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County

Panelists:

Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin

Chair, New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Saliann Scarpulla, JSC

Commercial Division, Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County

Tracee E. Davis, Esq.

Partner, Zeichner Ellman & Krause LLP

Jeffrey M. Winn, Esq.

Assistant Vice President & Executive Claim Director, Chubb Insurance Group

This CLE Program is co-sponsored by: Women's Bar Association of the State of New York's Diversity Committee, The Law Secretaries and Law Assistants Collegium and the Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Branch.

*Approval of CLE credit is pending in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board. Please note that only attorneys who attend the entire presentation will be eligible for a CLE certificate.

**CLE materials will be provided in an electronic format before the program.

The Gender Fairness Committee,
Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch
presents

The 2019 Women's History Month Celebration

April 17, 2019
60 Centre Street, New York, New York, Room 300
1:00-2:00 p.m.

Featuring a presentation by
Jacqueline M. Ebanks
Executive Director, Commission on Gender Equity
Office of the Mayor, The City of New York

An innovative manager and policy maker with extensive experience in philanthropy and the non-profit sector, **Jacqueline Ebanks** has worked for over 30 years to promote economic and social justice for women, girls, and marginalized communities. From 2014 to 2017, Ms. Ebanks served as the Executive Director of the Women's City Club of New York, where she guided the civic-engagement organization into its second century of activism. Previously, Ms. Ebanks served as the Vice President of Programs at the New York Women's Foundation and worked at Citigroup as the Vice President & Director of U.S. Partnerships and Program Development for Global Community Relations Division and then as Regional Community Relations Director for the Northeast and Puerto Rico. Prior to Citigroup, she served as the Vice President for Community Investment at the United Way of New York City. Ms. Ebanks began her career at citywide and community-based service organizations serving as Child Welfare Policy Analyst at the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Director of United Neighborhood Houses' Staff Development and Human Resource Management Initiative, Director of Program Development and Quality Assurance at the Society for Seamen's Children, and Director of Development at Harlem United Community AIDS Centers. She holds a M.S. in Policy Analysis and Public Management from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

2019 Women's History Month Awards

Hon. Laura E. Drager
Elaine Draghi

The Gender Fairness Committee will be presenting its Distinguished Jurist Award to the **Honorable Laura E. Drager** of the Supreme Court, Matrimonial Division, for her many years of service to the bench. **Elaine Draghi** will be presented with the Distinguished Service Award. Elaine, who presently works as a Court Clerk Specialist, began working for the court system as a Court Officer, and has served as a Senior Court Officer, Senior Court Clerk, Associate Court Clerk, Principal Court Clerk, and Case Management Coordinator.

Dedication of the Women's Suffrage Exhibit located at 60 Centre Street

The Gender Fairness Committee will be welcoming members of the Women in the Law section of the New York State Bar Association who will discuss their display entitled "A Centennial Commemoration of Women's Suffrage and the Achievement of Legal Rights" which is exhibited inside the entryway at 60 Centre Street.

This event is free and open to the public.
Light refreshments will be provided.

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK COUNTY
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH
PROUDLY PRESENTS

Women's History Month 2019

APRIL 17, 2019
1:00 P.M.
SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY
60 CENTRE STREET, ROOM 300, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Women's History Month 2019

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Honorable Deborah A. Kaplan
Administrative Judge For Civil Matters, First Judicial District
& Co-Chairperson of the Gender Fairness Committee,
Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jacqueline M. Ebanks
Executive Director, Commission on Gender Equity
Office of the Mayor, The City of New York

PRESENTATION OF THE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH DISTINGUISHED JURIST AWARD TO HONORABLE LAURA E. DRAGER

REMARKS

Lindsay Feinberg, Esq.
Gloria Smyth-Godinger
Judith White, Esq.

PRESENTATION OF THE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO ELAINE DRAGHI

REMARKS

John F. Werner, Esq.
Chief Clerk, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Term

DEDICATION OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT

Susan L. Harper, Esq.
Chair, New York State Bar Association's Women in Law Section

Terri A. Mazur, Esq.
Chair Elect of the New York State Bar Association's Women in Law Section

CLOSING REMARKS

Gregory F. Testa, Esq
Co-Chairperson of the Gender Fairness Committee,
Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch

GUEST SPEAKER

Jacqueline M. Ebanks

Executive Director, Commission on Gender Equity
Office of the Mayor, The City of New York

An innovative manager and policy maker with extensive experience in philanthropy and the non-profit sector, Jacqueline Ebanks has worked for over 30 years to promote economic and social justice for women, girls, and marginalized communities. From 2014 to 2017, Ms. Ebanks served as the Executive Director of the Women's City Club of New York, where she guided the civic-engagement organization into its second century of activism. Previously, Ms. Ebanks served as the Vice President of Programs at the New York Women's Foundation and worked at Citigroup as the Vice President & Director of U.S. Partnerships and Program Development for Global Community Relations Division and then as Regional Community Relations Director for the Northeast and Puerto Rico.

Prior to Citigroup, Ms. Ebanks served as the Vice President for Community Investment at the United Way of New York City. She began her career at citywide and community-based service organizations serving as Child Welfare Policy Analyst at the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Director of United Neighborhood Houses' Staff Development and Human Resource Management Initiative, Director of Program Development and Quality Assurance at the Society for Seamen's Children, and Director of Development at Harlem United Community AIDS Centers. She holds a M.S. in Policy Analysis and Public Management from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AWARDS

Hon. Laura E. Drager

Women's History Month 2019 Distinguished Jurist Award

Born and raised in Manhattan, Judge Laura E. Drager received her B.A. from the University of Rochester, and her J.D. from Columbia Law School. Upon graduation in 1973, she became associated with the law firm Proskauer Rose LLP. In 1976, she was appointed an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's office, serving in the trial division, sex crimes unit and the pimp prosecution unit. She left that office to become Deputy Chief and then Chief of the Rackets Bureau of the Kings County District Attorney's office, where she supervised investigations into organized crime and official corruption.

In 1987, Judge Drager was appointed to the New York City Criminal Court bench by Mayor Koch and was reappointed by Mayors Dinkins and Bloomberg. She was designated an Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Criminal Term, in 1995. Since January of 1999, Judge Drager has presided over matrimonial cases.

Judge Drager chaired the New York City Criminal Court Committee on Domestic Violence for ten years from its creation by the Office of Court Administration in 1982. Among its many accomplishments, the Committee developed the brochure, *Domestic Violence – You*

Don't Have To Face It Alone. This brochure, intended for victims of domestic violence, explained in simple language how victims could seek assistance from the courts. Over 100,000 copies of the brochure were distributed throughout the city. In addition, Judge Drager was the principal author of the article, *The Paper Shield: Orders of Protection in the New York City Criminal Court*, published at 48 The Record 891 (1993).

Judge Drager is a member of the OCA Matrimonial Practice Advisory and Rules Committee. She has proudly served on the Board of Directors of the New York Women's Bar Association for more than 20 years. She serves on the Executive Committee of the NYSBA Family Law Section and the NYSBA Committee on Procedures for Judicial Discipline. Judge Drager's previous bar association activities include serving as Co-Chair of the Criminal Justice Section of the New York County Lawyers' Association and on numerous Committees of the City Bar Association including Criminal Courts, the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Conduct, AIDS, and Criminal Law, and the Matrimonial Law Committee.

Judge Drager frequently lectures at judicial seminars, CLE classes, and bar association programs on matrimonial, criminal law and domestic violence issues. She was invited to Taiwan to give lectures on domestic violence to police, judges and lawyers. Judge Drager has been an adjunct professor for fifteen years at New York Law School, teaching an advanced elective course entitled "Anatomy of a New York Divorce."

Elaine Draghi

Women's History Month 2019 Distinguished Service Award

Elaine Draghi began working for the New York State Unified Court System in September of 1983 as a Uniformed Court Officer. Elaine was later promoted to Senior Court Officer. Following several years working as a Court Officer, she began working as a Senior Court Clerk. Elaine was promoted to an Associate Court Clerk, Principal Court Clerk, and a Case Management Coordinator.

Elaine currently works as a Court Clerk Specialist in the Ex Parte Office at 60 Centre Street and has held this position since July of 2012. Elaine's daily responsibilities consist of making sure key positions are staffed for the daily functioning of the office. She oversees the review of orders to be submitted to the Ex Parte judge and IAS judges for signature. Elaine fields phone inquiries from judges, attorneys, court personnel, pro se litigants, and members of the public. Elaine also steps in and backs up various ex parte clerks when and where needed to ensure that the office runs as smoothly as possible. This includes working on data entry and assisting at the front desk.

Elaine's favorite part of her job is helping people and bringing their concerns to satisfactory conclusions. She is always pleased when court users leave the Ex Parte office happy.

The Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term, proudly congratulates Elaine for her many years of outstanding service and her dedication to the court system.

DEDICATION OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT

The Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch, welcomes Susan L. Harper, Esq., Chair, New York State Bar Association's Women in Law Section, and Terri A. Mazur, Esq., Chair Elect of the New York State Bar Association's Women in Law Section, who will be discussing the exhibit entitled "A Centennial Commemoration of Women's Suffrage and the Achievement of Legal Rights."

This exhibit, which is prominently featured at the entryway of 60 Centre Street, was created by the New York State Bar Association's Women in the Law Section to serve as a commemoration of those who fought for women's right to vote. It chronicles the 70 year history to change the law and also features seven modern day New York women whose careers and lives demonstrate the legacy of the women's suffrage movement.

We invite all employees and guests of our courthouse to visit this exhibit and thank the New York State Bar Association's Women in Law Section for their participation at the 2019 Women's History Month event.

THANK YOU

Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch

Committee chairpersons: Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Gregory F. Testa, Esq.
Committee members: Simone Abrams, Doina Rosu Almazon, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Michelle Furey, PJ Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Judith Gische, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Steven Helfont, Esq., Yesenia Herrera, Officer Cecily Hernandez, Hon. Lynn Kotler, Stephanie M. Lagumina, Esq., Joan Levenson, Esq., Valerie Qualls, Hon. Eileen Rakower, Judith Rifkin, Esq., Sheila Riley-Aultman, Marie Rosemy, Hon. Lori Sattler, Hon. O. Peter Sherwood, Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, Hon. Milton Tingling, John Werner, Esq., Officer Shadai Wilkins.

Thank you to Gael Black, Helen Broad, Susan L. Harper, Terri A. Mazur, Margaret Sowah, and the New York State Bar Association's Women in the Law Section.

Special thanks to Luis Carrero, Augustine Capote, Sergio Colon, Michelle Gonsieski, Nick Inverso, Ahmad Jenkins, Naomi Ruiz, Loren Schwartz, and Sarita C. Whitehead.

Just Us

A publication from Supreme Court Civil Branch, First J.D.
New York County and New York County Clerk's Office

Remembrance Issue No. 8, May 2019

Commemorating the 23rd Annual Holocaust Remembrance Program

Introduction
by Hon. Martin Shulman

The Jewish Lawyers Guild and the Gender Fairness Committee of the Civil Branch of the Supreme Court, New York County and the New York County Clerk's Office annually sponsor a Holocaust Remembrance Program at our 60 Centre Street Courthouse. Here in the United States, we witnessed the terrible murder of Lori Gilbert Kaye at the Chabad House of Poway near San Diego California on the last day of Passover this past April, the horrific mass murders last fall in Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue, and record levels of reported anti-Semitic incidents. In an op-ed piece for CNN in January 2019, Harry D. Wall, a human rights activist, starkly concluded: "Democracy is fragile and human rights are easily weakened and demolished. What happened to the Jews in Nazi Germany is one of history's worst atrocities. It certainly wasn't the last of its kind as witnessed in Srebrenica, Rwanda and Myanmar. Unless we learn the lessons of the past, no society or country is safe from the demons that lurk among us." And, that is why Holocaust remembrance programs are now more important than ever.

Thank you to Administrative Justice Deborah Kaplan, Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, and Joan Levenson for their roles in making the 2019 Remembrance Ceremony possible.

Every year, we publicly read the stories of six Holocaust survivors, and after each story is read, the survivor or the survivor's children and grandchildren light a candle to honor the memory of loved ones. These lit six candles also honor the memory of the six million souls who perished. This special Just US edition enables other members of our court system and in the legal community to read the six stories we heard this year as well as learn about our keynote speaker, Seymour Kaplan, who became one of the first American soldiers to enter Dachau Concentration Camp in April, 1945. As a Yiddish speaker Mr. Kaplan served as a translator for the camp survivors. The shock of what he witnessed traumatized him for the rest of his life. Nonetheless, to foster Holocaust remembrance, Mr. Kaplan has been speaking to audiences throughout the tri-State area about his war-time experiences for many years. Readers will also see photographs of the Amud Aish Memorial Museum's moving

The "Just Us" Holocaust Remembrance Issue is edited by Loren Schwartz

exhibit specially created and displayed in our courthouse rotunda of objects found at the notorious Dachau Concentration Camp on loan from Mr. Kaplan's private collection.

Members of the SAR Hight School choir performing at the ceremony

Candle Lighter: Dr. Stephen L. Comite

Olga Berger Comite is the Mother of Dr. Stephen Comite. She virtually never spoke of her war experience. Thanks to Menachem Rosensaft who was able to elicit from her the following information.

On the last day of Passover, April 15, 1944, and less than a month after the Germans occupied Hungary, the mayor of Olga Berger's village, Velke Rakovice, warned her brother that a roundup of Jews was imminent. Olga Berger, considered herself Czechoslovakian; her family—consisting of her grandmother, two parents and her seven siblings, two of whom—Shmuel and Perla---had been away for years imprisoned in the Theresienstadt Ghetto---had lived in that town documented as least since the 1830's. With so many geographical changes given the two World Wars, her village was in Subcarpathian Ruthenia, which was then part of Hungary and is now in western Ukraine. Olga and the Berger family, prominent in the village, fled that day and hid in the surrounding hills for about five weeks until they were betrayed by one of their neighbors and captured.

Little more than a month later, the family was taken to the ghetto of a nearby city, and three days later they were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Upon their arrival at the death camp, Olga Berger Comite's grandmother and her parents were sent directly into the gas chambers.

The following excerpt is from the book, *Roses in a Forbidden Garden,* written by a 2nd cousin, Elise Garibaldi, in 2016, and describes the journey of Shmuel (or Sam), Olga Berger Comite's brother. In this part of the book, Shmuel has been transferred from Theresienstadt Ghetto, where he had been in captivity along with his sister Perla and had met his future wife, Inge, to Auschwitz, where he discovers the presence of all of his six remaining siblings: two brothers and his four sisters, including Olga. Shmuel is about to enter a large shower room where he does not know if water or gas will be released:

> All about him, Schmuel could hear the frantic murmuring of those praying. Some, however, were by now completely delirious, and shouting continuously "The Russians are coming! They will liberate us, they'll avenge us!" Schmuel strained his neck to see what was going on in the large shower room he was about to enter. But try he might, he couldn't make out anything.
>
> The sky was by then pitch black, as he, along with many of the others, waited outside, their bodies pressed against one another, as they listen to the frantic voices of those already inside. It was only when the gate blocking the entrance were hoisted to ready the facility for them was there any light. Only then could Schmuel see into the area they were all about to enter.
>
> By then, the guards were yelling at them, ordering them forward. Schmuel's desire to survive became paramount at that instant. Spotting a small, still unoccupied area at a far corner of the shower room, he pushed towards it and sat there, with his arms covering his head.
>
> Of course he knew that there was no place in there where he could avoid being annihilated, nowhere the lethal gas couldn't reach. And if anything at all were to be gained, it would only be to preserve his pitiful existence for matter of seconds longer. And so, he remained, with his head tucked between his knees, and his body pressed hard against a wall. It seemed as though his physical being was no longer in sync with his mind, as he struggled to survive. Then he felt someone approach him who shook him violently.
>
> "Get up! They are not going to kill us here!" that man repeated several times. But Schmuel, although he heard this, couldn't believe it. And so he remained in that position refusing to respond. But this man, actually a friend of his,

kept repeating, “Look for yourself! Those who entered right before us are still alive. They’re leaving through the gates on the other side!” Finally, Schmuel will did lift his head and could see that what he had just been told was true.

“Look,” his friend continued, pointing toward the gate at the far end, “they’re all still alive. We’ve been brought here just to take showers, real showers!

Even so Schmuel still found it hard to believe, but forced himself to find out for himself. Yes, it was true. Nonetheless, he remained apprehensive. As he pulled himself up with his friends help, he proceeded cautiously. Perhaps those before him were the last ones actually allowed to take real showers. Still, he bundled up all his clothing that he had been ordered to take off, along with his shoes and a belt. He then remained standing right where he was for whatever was going to happen to him next.

While instinctively holding his breath, he could hear valves opening and something spraying out. And then he began to feel what he hoped was only cold water on him as it splashed like rain. Yet even then he remained mistrustful, and continued holding his breath while squeezing his eyes shut. He felt his lungs burning, and sensed his blood throbbing. He felt faint. If the lethal gas is didn’t kill him, then surely holding his breath would. Finally he had no choice but to open his mouth and gasp for what he prayed was there. Mercifully, that was the case. It was enough to refresh him, and pump new energy into him. At that moment, he allowed himself to stretch out his arms over his head and to thank G-d for having spared him.

“Thank you!” He said aloud to him, “for answering my prayers!”

As they left the shower room each inmate was handed a pair of woolen underpants. But as Schmuel examined the garment more closely, he could tell that it had been made out of a tallith (Jewish prayer shawl). But given no option but to wear something he found so distasteful, he asked for the Almighty’s forgiveness before putting it on. After that, the men were ordered to the barracks where they were then permitted to lie down on the wooden planks, which served as beds. But then, after what seem to be just minutes, they were awakened.

This was followed by an early roll call, after which he, along with all the others, were marched off, five abreast, to a clothes depot where he was

handed a coat. There, he heard Hungarian being spoken for the first time. A language he knew. That proved a lucky break, as he then asked for a warmer coat from one of the Hungarian Jews who was distributing them. It actually worked, and he was then given a very good woolen one, lightweight and very warm.

Clutching onto this coat, he, along with all the others, within ordered to start moving again five abreast, this time towards the railway. As they pass the women's camp where Schmuel had been able to talk briefly with his sisters that one time, his bravest, and most brazen of them, Olga, dared to leave her barrack to see him off from the other side of fence separating them. It wasn't easy for Schmuel to spot her at first even though she was a fiery redhead, a color closely matching her temperament, because it had been clipped down her scalp when she first came to Auschwitz. Still, soon enough, they did recognize each other, and Olga began running alongside him as he continued to march along on the other side of the fence. As she did, Olga then shouted out, although it sounded not much more than a whisper to Shmuel well, to get his attention.

"Shmuel!" She said as loudly as she could, and then threw a package to him over the fence that he managed to catch. Only for a moment did their eyes meet

"Be safe," were the last words she said before she disappeared from view.

After looking all about, to make sure that no one could see, he opened the package his sister chanced to get to him. And to his sheer delight, there was a loaf of bread and a hunk of cheese, both wrapped in a gray woolen sweater. Shaking his head in disbelief, he wondered how she had obtained such items. When he then turned his head to see whether she was still visible, and to somehow express his thanks, Olga was by then too far away. And his chagrin, a guard then shoved him hard on his back, gruffly telling him at the same time to, "Hand it over!"

"Please!" Schmuel pleaded. "It's from my sister. I haven't seen her for six years. Please!"

And once again, Schmuel felt G-d's grace aiding him. The guard, for some reason he couldn't fathom, said nothing and then just walked away.

In October 1944, Olga Berger Comite was sent from Auschwitz to Kleinschönau, a subcamp of the concentration camp of Gross-Rosen in easternmost Germany, where she was liberated by Soviet troops on May 7, 1945.

Besides Dr. Stephen Comite's mother, Olga Berger Comite, four of her sisters and two brothers survived the war. One brother, Moshe, died in a death march. All of the remaining siblings settled in New York City, except for one sister, Perla, who made Aliyah and moved to Israel.

In New York City, Olga Berger met my father of blessed memory, Morris Comite, originally from Kraków, Poland. After the virtually immediate collapse of the Polish armed forces in 1939, Morris first went to Soviet-occupied Poland knowing he would be incarcerated by the Russians, but feeling that to be a better option than capture by the Nazis. His parents were imprisoned and later killed in the Krakow Concentration Camp. After multiple interrogations by the NKVD, the forerunner of the KGB, as an alien Pole, Morris Comite was imprisoned in a labor camp in the U.S.S.R., a camp that he later recognized in Solzhenitsyn's book *The Gulag Archipelago.*

While Morris Comite was also extremely reticent to talk about his war experiences, he did relay one story. While he was working outdoors daily in the Russian forced labor camp, the Red Cross or equivalent organization came to visit. When all of the inmates were lined up, the Red Cross asked if there were any questions. Morris Comite raised his hand and asked since there were so many skilled Polish workers, couldn't they work inside and help the Russian war effort. Later that days Morris Comite called to the Russian Commandant's office later; he thought he was going to be killed for his

Olga and Morris Comite with their son Stephen Comite, MD and his bride Anita Slosberg on the young couple's wedding day.

insolence and daring to ask a question. Instead, the camp changed its policy and the Polish prisoners were put to work indoors, saving who knows how many countless lives from exposure to the harsh Russian winter.

After the Nazis invaded Russia and the Russian and Polish governments became erstwhile allies, Morris Comite was freed. He eventually made his way to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan where he spent the remainder of the war years. One of Morris Comite's uncles as well as two cousins survived the war by being part of Schindler's list.

From left to right, Elliot Comite, Stephen Comite MD, FAAD, Alison Comite, Anita Slosberg Comite & Matt Comite

Olga Berger Comite was initially a homemaker; she was a phenomenal cook and baker and devoted to her children. After her three children, Dr. Stephen Comite, and his older twin sisters, Harriet and Florence, were past elementary school, Helen Berger Comite began working in real estate.

Dr. Comite's father, Morris Comite, was a skilled hatmaker in Poland. After immigrating to the United States, he became foreman of a hat factory in Manhattan. When hats went out of style, Morris Comite reinvented himself by purchasing his own taxicab.

Dr. Comite's father of blessed memory, Morris Comite, passed away in 2006. His mother, Olga Berger Comite was 99 two days ago, but is too infirm to be here today. Olga and Morris Comite were married for 56 years.

Dr. Comite's parents raised three successful Ivy League trained physicians: Dr. Harriet Comite is a dermatologist in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. Her twin sister, Dr. Florence Comite, an endocrinologist, and an early practitioner of precision medicine, has a practice here in Manhattan. They both attended medical school at Yale. Dr. Stephen Comite attended the University of Pennsylvania where he was a Benjamin Franklin Scholar and a University Scholar. He continued at Penn and graduated from medical school there. Dr. Stephen Comite completed an internship at the University of Michigan and his dermatology residency at NYU. Dr. Stephen Comite is a dermatologist in private practice in Manhattan and Associate Professor of Dermatology at Mount Sinai. He has written 18 journal articles and book chapters about such varied topics as the use of Botox for increased sweating as well as cosmetically, dermatologic conditions in HIV, and innovative and pioneering methods to minimize discomfort during skin procedures.

Olga and Morris Comite had seven grandchildren, all highly educated and successful.

Dr. Stephen Comite has been married for 31 years to Anita Slosberg Comite, who is a Portfolio Manager for a private family office and is here today. Their three children include their oldest son, Matt, who is also here today; he graduated from SUNY Binghamton where he was the student commencement speaker; Matt has worked for the Yankees and currently works in sales for SAP in Manhattan. Another son, Elliot, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania where he was a Benjamin Franklin Scholar and has been working in venture capital; he is in the process of moving to San Francisco for a job in finance. Their third child is Alison, who is finishing a gap year in Israel before matriculating at the University of Pennsylvania this fall. During her gap year, Alison visited Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland just few months ago and read the above book excerpt. After hearing it, the Rabbi who brings groups to that camp will now be reading that chapter to future camp visitors.

Truly an amazing story of survival.

Candle Lighter: Vivian Bernstein

My mother, Eva Holub, was born on January 22, 1925 in Prague to Marie Popper Holub, a homemaker, and Joseph Holub, an engineer. Her brother, Honsa, was born on 7 March 1929. She arrived in Theresienstadt, or Terezin, not far from the Czech capital, together with her brother and parents on 5 July,1943. Her father was deported to Auschwitz on 1 October 1944, followed by her mother and brother who were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau 18 days later. My mother stayed behind as she had an appendectomy at Terezin. On October 28, 1944, still bandaged, she "volunteered" to go on what she later learned was the last transport to Auschwitz-Birkenau in the hope of reuniting with her parents and brother. Upon her arrival at the death camp, SS Dr. Josef Mengele ripped off her bandage, saw her still fresh scars, and ordered her to the left to the gas chambers, but my mother found the courage to break through the lines of the condemned and hide among those selected to live. Despite intense efforts by the Germans to identify the fugitive, none of her fellow inmates betrayed her. In early November of 1944, she again "volunteered" to go on a transport which landed her in Bergen-Belsen. From there, in January of 1945, she was transported to Raghun, a sub camp of Buchenwald, in eastern Germany, where she was liberated by American troops on April 18,1945.

Only 20 years old, my mother returned to Prague after liberation and discovered that only her mother and maternal aunt had survived. She had a fervent wish to have children and quickly married and had twin boys in June of 1946. In 1948, when the Communists took over Prague, she tried to obtain visas to the United States; unable to do so, she secured visas to Venezuela for the entire family. She arrived in Venezuela in April of 1948 with her then husband, twin sons, mother and aunt. None of them spoke Spanish, but eventually they all became fluent. This first marriage did not endure, and

sadly my mother experienced another unimaginable loss when one of the twins died in a playground accident at the age of five. Initially she worked as an administrative assistant and eventually she finished her education by obtaining her college degree as well as her PhD in English. For decades, she taught English at various high-schools in Caracas where she was a beloved teacher.

My father, Herbert Glaser, was born in Prague on June 26, 1913 to Marie, and Otto Glaser. His sister, Annie Glaser was born on April 27, 1923. He obtained a Law Degree in June of 1937 from the University of Prague and married his first wife, on October 23rd, 1941. Although they both survived the war, their marriage did not; they had no children and divorced on September 12th 1945.

My father was an inmate at Theresienstadt where he arrived on December 22nd, 1942, following his sister and their parents who arrived earlier that same year. They were all transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau at different times – my father on September 29, 1944. A few days after his arrival in Auschwitz, there was a call for carpenters among the prisoners. Although totally ignorant of this

Herbert and Eva Glaser on their wedding day in Caracas, Venezuela, August 4, 1951

trade, he volunteered and was sent to Bismarckhutte, a sub camp of Auschwitz near Katowice. At the end of December 1944, suffering from dysentery, he was taken to another Auschwitz sub camp, Buna Monowitz (also know as Auschwitz III). On January 18, 1945, when the Germans evacuated Buna-Monowitz in the face of the Red Army's approach, my father was one of around 600 prisoners, also including the Italian chemist Primo Levi, left behind because they were too ill and too weak to go on a forced march, and he was liberated there by Soviet troops on January 27, 1945. He was the sole survivor in his family. He returned to Prague and immigrated to Venezuela in December of 1947. As he did not speak Spanish, he became a businessman involved in the textile business. Eventually, he became fluent in Spanish, but he never practiced law in Venezuela.

The Glaser and Holub families had known each other in Prague before the war, but Herbert and Evawere 12 years apart. They re-met in Venezuela and married on August 4th, 1951; I was born in March of 1954. They were complete opposites when it came to speaking about their experiences during the war. My mother spoke about her experiences with ease, while my father resorted mostly to silence and we just knew not to ask. My mother yearned to visit Prague, which we did together in in the spring of 1990, and my father never wanted to set foot in Czechoslovakia. Yet, they both emerged from the Shoah with faith in humankind, a tremendous joie de vivre, optimism - the glass was always half-full - and a noticeable absence of bitterness or anger. They both possessed the ability to live dignified, meaningful lives and to focus on what they had rather than on what was lost. I am tremendously proud of and grateful for my parents' ability to radiate such positive energy and provide us with a home filled with a deep, unconditional love for each other and their children.

Even more remarkable was their determination and ability to give us wings; and what a span they had! Both my brother and I were sent to summer camp in the United States from ages nine to eleven in order to learn English, a skill they wanted us to master, as they were determined to send us to college in the United States. They were overjoyed when after graduating from Tufts University, I married an American and had an opportunity to make a life in the United States. Eventually, they immigrated to San Diego in September of 1981 where they lived until their deaths in 1985 and 2001 respectively.

"Our children are our best revenge" are words my mother often uttered and that will always resonate with me. We have recently added two new links to the chain with the birth of our grandsons Benjamin Harris - Chaim Shmuel - named in memory of both my parents and Eli Samuel - Eliyahu Reuven.

My parents outlook on life continues to give me strength and carry me through all of life's challenges.

Candle Lighter: Lawrence Kahn

Aron Kahn was born in 1841 in Baden, Germany and later moved to Augsburg, Bavaria. He married Flora Farnbacher and they had ten children. A peddler as a young man, in 1869, with a partner, he started a textile business in Augsburg and soon acquired a spinning and weaving factory. Two of Aron's sons, Bertold and Alfred, eventually succeeded to the business, together with Benno and Arthur Arnold, two of the children of Aron's partner. Benno married Anna, one of Aron's daughters. The families prospered until Kahn & Arnold was aryanized by the Nazis in the guise of a "voluntary" sale in 1938.

On Kristallnacht, also known today as the November Pogromnacht, yet another of Aron's sons, Anselm, was victimized. He was arrested and imprisoned. Anselm was eventually released after agreeing to leave the country immediately and to sell his own chemical business and his house at a small fraction of their value. Anselm and his wife Laura were able to emigrate to England in 1939 and then to the United States. Luckily their children, Fred and Lisl, were able to emigrate to the United States in 1938.

One of Aron's daughters, Else, married a non-Jew (who died in 1926). Else was thus considered "privileged" during the early war years, forced "only" to work in a defense factory. However, shortly before her daughter Eva turned 17, Else was deported in January 1944 to Theresienstadt. Upon her arrival, Else learned that her sister Anna, who had preceded her there in 1942, had died. Anna's husband, Benno Arnold, who was deported with her, was barely alive, but had so badly deteriorated that he did not recognize Else and died soon after her arrival of starvation. Benno's brother, an inmate at Dachau, died in 1941, apparently from experimental surgery performed by a Nazi doctor without anesthesia.

After Else was deported to Theresienstadt, her daughter Eva, who had been expelled from school in December 1943, was forced to work in a defense factory. Her older brother Wolf was sent to a work camp in September, 1944. Eva barely survived the Allied bombing of Augsburg in February 1944, which virtually destroyed the house in which she was living.

Else miraculously survived her nearly year and a half at Theresienstadt and was liberated by the

Flora Farnbacher, Aron's wife

Russians in May 1945. She was a shadow of herself when she returned to Augsburg. Else and Eva

emigrated to the United States together in 1948. Wolf had passed away shortly after the war. Eva, now 92, lives on the Upper West Side, and is the sole surviving grandchild of Aron Kahn.

WhIle Anna Kahn and Benno Arnold and many others in the Arnold and Farnbacher families died in the camps, or in some cases committed suicide in anticipation of being deported, others managed to emigrate to various parts of the world that would accept them, including India, New Zealand, Argentina, England and Palestine.

In the summer of 2017, the Jewish Cultural Museum and Synagogue in Augsburg invited the few remaining Jewish survivors of Augsburg from the Nazi period, and nearly 100 of their descendants, to commemorate the Synagogue's 100th Anniversary. The Synagogue had been badly damaged from a fire on Kristallnacht but was one of the few in Germany that survived because it was across the street from a gas station, which would have destroyed the surrounding homes of non-Jews if it exploded. Many German officials spoke at ceremonies at the Augsburg City Hall and the Synagogue about the need always to remember the Holocaust and to avoid attitudes that recall the sins of the country's past.

More than twenty descendants of Aron Kahn gathered at the Synagogue commemoration. Lawrence Kahn, a now retired former attorney for the NYC City Law Department, the NYS Attorney General's

Office and a legal services program, the son of Fred Kahn, grandson of Anselm and great-grandson of Aron, attended the commemorative week. At the Augsburg State Textile and Industry Museum, he encountered a display case in an exhibit about the entitled "Rise, Persecution, and Emigration of Two Augsburg Families of Entrepreneurs in the 20th Century", which featured his Grandfather's PhD. in Chemistry, earned in 1903, alongside a certificate gratuitously issued in 1940 by the Third

Aron Kahn, his daughter, Else and his grandson, Wolf , who died shortly after the war.

Eva Eckert, Else's daughter, at the family's celebration of her 90th birthday

Reich, nullifying the PhD.

We now call upon Lawrence Kahn to light the next candle in memory of the many Kahn, Arnold, and Farnbacher family members who did not survive the Holocaust.

Candle Lighters: Hadasa Schifman Nagel and Jason Nagel

Remembered by Jason Nagel, Esq. (State Government Attorney/Grandson)

Hadasa Schifman in the arms of her parents Rena and Jacob Schifman

My Polish-Jewish grandparents, Rena and Jacob Schifman, survived the Holocaust with all four family members alive and together. That was G-d's first miracle. They considered America their second miracle.

Grandma Irene, as I knew her, and Jacob, whom I am named after, survived the war through guile and courage. In 1939, they saw the "writing on the wall" of the Holocaust before most. With no children yet to care for, they decided to face the unknown, rather than stay in Poland. They made the horribly difficult decision to leave all who they knew and loved, eventually *volunteering* in a Siberian slave-labor camp, near the Manchurian border, deep inside the Soviet Union. By the way, what was this little known initiative by Stalin? In a movie it was ironically named, Rescue **BY** Deportation. The Soviets desperately needed agricultural field workers to feed millions of people across its vast territory; Jacob and Rena needed the Soviet Union's promised-protection of safety. For five-plus years, the young, married Schifmans worked unforgivingly long hours in waste-deep waters and rice patty fields. They subsisted on a tiny portion and variety of foods. Grandma survived malaria. And perhaps most incredibly, Grandma and Grandpa survived five notorious Russian winters in the freezing cold. Needless to say, growing up close with my grandmother, I was always filled with carbohydrates. And I often fell asleep on her couch…because her apartment was so hot!

Jacob and Rena arrived safely in America in 1950. But almost no one in her family survived. Rena's mom and Rena's, sister, her only sibling, died in Aushcwitz. My mom, Hadasa, who is here today,

was born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, just after the war ended in Europe. Hadasa's brother, Arnold, was born in a Displaced Persons (D.P.) camp in Germany known as Felderfink, Germany. Essentially country-less, the Schifmans had to live in the D.P. camp for five years before obtaining the opportunity to go to America. Grandpa Jacob survived the war but died in his early 40s. His death certificate didn't say Holocaust, but his experiences in Europe made him old. He died less than a decade after arriving here, still adoring America.

Grandma Irene lived happily until 1994, spending four decades in the same apartment near here, on Jackson Street. She never found a good enough reason to leave the New York area, even for a short period of time. My dad used to joke: Grandma Irene took one look at the wealth of products in the supermarket around the corner and decided never to leave. As an attorney, I take special pride that, Grandpa Jacob and Grandma Rena lived less than 2 miles from these courthouses in Foley Square. They are great symbols, and living illustrations, of American freedom and justice. The experiences of my grandparents lead me to never forget and never take freedom and justice for granted.

Listening to Justice Kaplan read the Remembrance narratives

The SARS Choir, 60 Centre Street, before members sang at the ceremony

Candle Lighter: Thomas Newman

I will read excerpts from a poem written by Thomas Newman's grandfather, Henry Feilchenfeld, describing life in Bergen Belsen in November 1944, two months before his death on January 19, 1945, shortly before the liberation of the camp by the British on April 15, 1945.

The day after his grandfather died, Thomas Newman's grandmother, Hannah, with forged Paraguayan citizenship papers, was put on a train to Switzerland to be exchanged for German nationals interred in Guernsey and elsewhere.

On that day they had more Jews than needed, so she and others were off-loaded in Bavaria and spent the remaining months until Germany's surrender in a castle in Wurzach in the care of the Red Cross.

Wer ist's, der so fruhe
Mit viel Sorg' und Miihe
In dunkelster Nacht
Schon rumirrt und wacht
Zwischen Betten durcheilt,
Stett im eig'nen warm weilt?

Why Heavens alive,
If it's not Hannah, my wife.

In wirklich noch Wacht
Auf alles bedacht
Kommt sie zu mir ins Bett;
Na, ist das nicht nett?
Druckt mir zu fruher Stund
Einen Kuss auf den Mund.

Who is it, who so early,
With much care and effort,
In darkest night,
Already stirs and is awake
And moves among the beds,
Instead of staying warm in her own?

Why Heavens alive,
If it's not Hannah, my wife.
[these two lines consistently in English]

It really is still night.
Yet, thinking of everything,
she approaches my bed
and kisses my lips
Isn't that nice.

Ein Becken zum Waschen
Und etwas zum Naschen;
Gewiss recht bescheiden
Es ist nicht zu vermeiden.
Dann woher nehmen,
Ohne zu stehlen?
Alle, die es versuchen
Es spater verfluchen;
Denn dafiir gibt's Bunker
Das ist kein Geflunker.

She brings me a basin
and something to eat.
It's quite modest, of course,
but that can't be helped.
What else could be gotten
without stealing?
Some stole, and later regretted it,
because punishment is certain.
And that's the truth.

In Sturm and Regen
Auf durchnassten Wegen
Zum Waschhaus zu gehen
Dort Schlange zu stehen
Mit achtzig Jahren
Nicht ohne Gefahren ;
Mit durchloscherten Sohlen —
Sei dann Gott befehlen.

To have to go to the washhouse
in storm and rain,
on drenched roads,
with holes in one's shoes;
and then stand on line,
at eighty, that's not without risk.
May god protect you!

Ein paar Minuten spater
(Siehe "Sprache der Vater")
Koirant sie eingeschritten
Mit lackern Brotschnitten
Mit Kaffee-Surrogat-Hagel
Als "eisches Chagil"
Bis zu meinen Bett,
Nun setz' ich an Fett.

A few minutes later
(like the biblical woman of valor)
she brings tasty slices of bread,
and "ersatz" coffee to my bed.
Now I'll gain a little weight.

Ihr ein' Kuss auf die Hand,
Gilt dem 40 Jahr Eh'stand.
Dann kommt Appell un neun,
Worauf wir uns freu'n;
Im Bett mussen liegen,
Weil kein Platz sonst zu
kriegen
Sag, wen des wundert
Wir sind drei stett zwei
hundert.
Dann hast Du fine Idee
Von unserer ganzen Misere.

I kiss her hand
in honor of our 40th anniversary.
At nine o'clock we have roll call.
We look forward to it
as we have to stay in bed;
there wouldn't be room
for us all otherwise.
If that seems strange,
remember 300 are in a bunk for
200.
This will give some idea of
our miserable plight.

Eine Stunde darauf
Kommt sie wieder im Lauf
Mit belegten Brotschnitten:
"Mein Herr, darf ich bitten?"
Sie spart so sich ab,
Hat es selber nur knapp.

Doch in 'ne bose Lage
Bringt sie die Ofenplage:
Vor Weiber-mauern
Auf ein Platzchen lauern
Zum Trokhnen einer Hose,
Ist 'ne schreckliche Chose.
Auf wenn ich's nicht sage
An jedem Tage:
Dein Miihen und Hetzen
Ich weiss es zu schatzen.

Wenn ich jetzt noch erwahne
Die Quarantane-
Ihr sagt, ich sei hager,
Der endre nannt's mager;
Ein Dritter" ein Skelett,
So flach wie ein Brett.
Nur noch die Flundern
Konn'n sich drob wundern.
Antaglich Kohlriiben.
Kohlriiben—Kohlriiben.

Dann denk' ich an driiben,
In der Kinder Hauschen,
Und lach' mir ins Faustchen.

Manchmal denke ich bange
Wie lang' noch? Wie lange?
Doch bald nicht mehr triste,
Bin wieder Optimiste.
Ich rechne mit Tagen,
Kann dann alles ertragen.

One hour later
She comes running again
with a sandwich.
"May I serve you?", she asks.
She saved it from her own ration,
which is meager enough.

The worst of her plight
is the plague with the stove,
Confronted by a wall of women,
she searches for a small spot to
linger
Long enough to dry underwear.
That's a terrible thing.
Even when I do not repeat it
daily:
I treasure your efforts.

Now let me mention the
Quarantine.
Some say I am skinny;
another calls it emaciated.
A third says, "like a skeleton",
flat as a board.
No wonder; with a daily ration of
turnips, turnips, turnips.

But then my thoughts go across
the sea
to the children's house
(and I am cheerful again)
And I laugh to myself

Sometimes I am overcome with
misgiving
How much longer? How much longer?
But soon the sadness passes and
I am optimistic again.
I look at the future in days,
and this way I can bear anything.

Die Geruetchte, sie schwirren,
Doch stets noch sie irren.
Man sagt: "Transporte!",
Erwahnt viele Arte.
Man hort Leute reden
Von der Schweiz und von
Schweden.
Es ist wieder, Du weisst ja,
Nur IPA (?), nur IPA (?).

Wie die Voglein ihre Jungen
Ist Dir es gelungen,
Durch klug Schalten und Walten
Mich gesund zu erhalten.
Dein Verdienst ist's allein,
Stets Dank soll Dir sein,

Nur eine macht mir Kummer,
Oft raubt's mir den
Schlummer:
Beziiglich der Frist
Bist Du Pessimist
Und Lasst Dich betoren.
Ich kann's nicht mehr horen.
Glaub' mit mir and Gluck
Von unsern Geschick,
An die herrlichen Zeiten,
Die uns Kinder bereiten.

Eine Woche spaeter erkrankte er an der Ruhr;

Rumors abound,
but until now all were false.
Some say: "Transports",
mentioning different countries.
One hears talk of Switzerland or
Sweden.
But, again, this is just talk.

Like a mother bird raises her
young,
so you have succeeded by careful
maneuvering to keep me in good
health.
That's to your credit alone,
and I will be forever grateful.

Just one thing saddens me,
and often robs me of sleep:
the time we have left.
You are pessimistic,
and taken in by others who are.
I can't stand that any longer.
Believe with me in the good luck
of our destiny
Believe in the wonderful times
our children have in store for us.

Shortly thereafter Henry contracted dysentery and died on January 19, 1945, one day later he presumably would have been with Hannah on the train that took her from Bergen-Belsen to the (relatively, heavenly!) castle-prison in Wurzach

Hannah and Heinrich Feilchenfeld.

Henry's "Bread board". Notches to mark limit for each day. From Bergen Belsen

Thomas Newman and his Brother, Dr. Robert Newman

Thomas Newman is a leading appellate practitioner in New York City. His treatise "New York Appellate Practice" is the foremost on that subject, and he is co-author, with Hon. Barry Ostrager of the New York Commercial Division, of "Handbook on Insurance Law," now in its 19th edition.

"Jood" star worn by Henry to his death. Retrieved from his corpse and brought to US by Hannah.

Robert Newman, MD, (deceased) Thomas Newman's brother, also had an illustrious career. A public health doctor, Dr. Newman pioneered the use of methadone maintenance as a safe substitute for heroine, and, working in the administration of Mayor John V. Lindsay, in the 1970s led a massive expansion of the city's addiction treatment services. The increased accessibility of treatment allowed thousands of lives to be salvaged. You can read more about Dr. Newman's remarkable life in his *New York Times* obituary at https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/08/obituaries/dr-robert-newman-apostle-of-methadone-treatment-dies-at-80.html

Candle Lighters: Dasha Rittenberg nee Werdyger

Today is a day of life and joy, of death and rebirth. 74 years ago, today, I was liberated from the hell of the Schatzlar labor camp. As one of the few survivors left, it is time to focus on what has always been the survivors' concern: what will the future remember?

From the Fall of 1940 until the Fall of 1942, I was 12 and 13 years old, struggling with my family in the Ghetto of my hometown, Bedzin, Poland. When I was fourteen, I was taken to the camps where I spent the next two and a half years, from November 1942 until liberation, on May 8th, 1945.

The crematoria at Auschwitz were not fast enough to incinerate all of us, so some of us were dispersed to be worked to death in other camps. I was sent to Schatzlar labor camp. My family – my mother, father and brothers - were sent to Auschwitz. When we were separated, I was told to let them kill me but don't let them "touch me."

I did not let them touch me. I did not let them touch my soul. I decided that above all I would lead an observant life to the greatest extent possible. To me, this decision, this wish and the fulfillment of it, with all the risk it entailed, was one symbol of resistance and victory over the Nazis. I want this symbol to endure and I want it to be a reminder today since the forces that sought to annihilate us under the banner of the swastika 74 short years ago have re-formed to threaten the Jewish people again.. So, the question of survival returns, and will no doubt return again.

Throughout our history, we have been tempted or forced to deny our Jewish life; what better place to look for some inspiration as a Jew than in the most extreme and concentrated threat against us ever?

Dasha (right) and her sister Chana, who died three years ago in Israel Their sister Yohevet perished in 1943.

I write this not as an act of arrogance or pride. On the contrary, my choice to practice my religion against all odds was made for many reasons; none was particularly noble or heroic. I want those who survive us to know something about how and why that choice was made if, G-d forbid, it comes time for them to make a similar choice.

I did not make this decision alone. Nor could I have done this alone. My story is a story of others, observant and not, who dedicated themselves directly or indirectly to helping us stay observantly Jewish behind the barbed wire.

There was one girl, Rifka, a Hungarian, from a religious home. I bonded with her. She was desperate not to do hard labor on Shabbos. My memory of Rifka reminds me daily, that above all, we were committed to observing Shabbos.

Our method sounds simple, but in a place where one day was made to bleed into another without difference, where routines were repeated endlessly, it was not simple. But there were markers. For example, on Saturdays the toilets were cleaned in the camp; on Sundays we would clean the Germans' barrack's and houses.

Dasha's mother, Telca Wandersman, who perished in Auschwitz in October, 1943

We used these markers to count the days to Shabbos. And we tried to count the days to the Holy Days. We few girls who tried to be observant were not alone. The older girls, twenty and above, were not observant but they helped us. They would trade work days with us (at great risk to themselves). They would work Saturdays so we could work Sundays. And if we were found out or forced to work, we would work the absolute minimum of what was demanded.

On Passover, we would trade bread for potatoes, so as not to eat leavened bread. Once on Yom Kippur we fasted on the wrong day; so, we created another fast day.

To be observant in this hellish world gave us (and I believe those who knew us) a feeling of wholeness and peace, however tenuous. We welcomed with all our soul any other glimmer of hope. For example, there was another Hungarian girl, whose name I forget, who spoke French but knew no German or Polish. Her bunk was next to mine. She was a poet. She wrote lines of hope. She was the only one who could read French. In the village, French POW's would sometimes throw rocks at us with notes attached to encourage us. We would hide the notes until the night and then gather around to hear them read. The notes would have news; this girl would read the notes. There is no way to describe the breathtaking news; the Germans were losing the war.

So, I was not alone even though I am the one writing this. All of us who remained observant, wanted the world to know there were people who cared and helped us. And this effort took place in many other camps.

Why did I do it? The obvious answer is that observance was part of who I was, and to preserve my identify, I had no choice. But I often wonder, would I have taken the risks and made the sacrifices if for a moment I knew the truth about my family: they would not be waiting for me; I would not be reunited with them and be able to assure them that I had not been "touched, that I remained a Jew and that they would be proud of me, proud to say my child kept the wishes of her mother and her father. At the end of the war, there were no mother, no father, no brothers. They had all been murdered.

Dasha and her granddaughter Sarala

The image I kept in my heart and in my mind of reuniting with my mother, father and brothers was an image of wholeness. It was for them that I tried to remain observant.

So many pages have been written about other parts of the Shoah. There are pages one can write about the supreme sacrifices that took place and the children as young as I was, and younger, who were capable of carrying on ????? as Jews?. I hope there will be more who will write but above all, I hope that the world will care to remember.

Dasha and her son Moshe

WITNESS TO DACHAU

Sergeant Seymour Kaplan collected all the objects displayed in this Exhibit in the midst of exceptionally moving encounters with the survivors of Dachau, who were in varying states of shock and trauma at the moment of their liberation. He also confronted the perpetrators. Each artifact captures hitherto untold stories about the devastation of Dachau for imprisoned Jews and a young American Jewish liberator with a gun.

עמוד AMUD
אש AISH
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM
THE KLEINMAN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTER

At the age of 17, Seymour Kaplan left Brooklyn to fight in Nazi-Occupied Europe, as a machine gunner with the 692 Tank destroyer Battalion, attached to the 42 Infantry Division. He entered Dachau on April 29th, 1945. He was one of the first liberators of The Dachau Concentration Camp.

On his entrance into Dachau, he witnessed more than 30 cattle cars filled with dead bodies. Inside the camp were 30,000 survivors. The liberation had begun.

As a Yiddish speaker, Seymour Kaplan served as a much-needed translator to the survivors. He explains his first impression of the camp: There were thousands and thousands of victims in the camp. Those alive were so emaciated, it defies description. They were crawling in the mud. Some were praying. I yelled out to them, "I am Jewish. You are safe!"

After the war, Sergeant Seymour Kaplan returned home to Brooklyn and established a successful garment company. In retirement, he began a second career as a teacher in the New York City Public School system. He suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of his experience in Dachau. Seymour Kaplan is a Mental Health advocate and has been honored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

L-R: Thomas Linville, William H. Janes, Seymour Kaplan

"Witness to Dachau": The Seymour Kaplan Collection

Brooklyn, New York

Sergeant Seymour Kaplan, one of the first liberators of the Dachau Concentration Camp, was the keynote speaker at the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony. A mere 17-years-old when he entered Dachau with the 42nd Infantry Division, Sergeant Kaplan had a command of Yiddish that immediately made him essential as a translator between survivor and their liberators. In the midst of his encounters with the starved and traumatized survivors, the young sergeant collected small objects that testified to the evil they had endured, and the depth of his experiences with them. Each year the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony includes a small, carefully curated exhibit illuminating an aspect of the Shoah. The preceding page shows the poster for this year's exhibit, "Witness to Dachau," a trove of objects from the Seymour Kaplan Collection, in Brooklyn, New York

Below, Sergeant Kaplan explains the objects in his collection in his own words .

Crematorium Leviahs (funerals) at Dachau: A Kiddush cup
We heard talk amongst the troops about ovens at the north east end of the camp. We found them, with bodies still smoldering. The Kapo who tended the oven was a Polish Jew. He was afraid, we would arrest him. He soon realized that I spoke Yiddish. He screamed, "who WHO did I hurt here? They were already dead." He was begging for protection. He was begging for his life, fearing that the inmates would kill him, as he had burned their families and friends. He put his hand inside his prison jacket and pulled out a Kiddush Cup with a string attached to it. He told me, "I made a *Leviah* (funeral) and a *brucha* (prayer) for every *nishuma* (soul) I placed in the oven. He handed the Kiddush Cup to me. At that moment, a fence behind us crashed to the ground. A wave of prisoners rushed out and I was separated from the Kapo. I still had the Kiddush cup in my hand. I never saw the man again.

Family Photo from an Unknown Woman at Dachau
I wandered into a prisoners' barrack. A woman stood alone, stunned. I told her I speak Yiddish. She made a sound I could not understand. I tried to comfort her. She withdrew from me in fear. She was beyond comfort. I told her I was a Jewish boy, an American soldier. When I reached out to console her. She recoiled. She started screaming in Yiddish, "where Where is my family? Where are my children?" She gave me a family picture to inspect. She kept repeating, "Where are they?". She wanted to know if I had seen any of her family members in the camp. At that very moment, hundreds of freed prisoners ran by us, screaming. It was like a subway rush. She was swept up in the fast-moving crowd. I never saw her again. I was left holding a torn picture of her family."

Nazi Officer Identity Booklet
Liberated Jews screamed, "Shoot him!" Women started to hit him. He fought back and began striking the women. An American soldier witnessed this and beat the officer. A male prisoner screamed, "Give me a pistol, I

want to kill the Nazi." The crowd vented its rage on the officer.

Two Belt Buckles
A belt buckle from a *Wehrmacht* soldier. It states "*Gott mit uns,*" God is with us.

An Air Force buckle of an eagle with a swastika in its talons.

In the last days of the war, many camp guards and members of the SS Death's Head Units (*Totenkopfverbande*) defected from Dachau. The SS defectors stole prisoner Concentration Camp uniforms from Jews to facilitate their escape. They were replaced by *Wehrmacht* soldiers, who were called back into service to take the places of the defectors.

The Reichsarbeitsdienst (RAD) Leader Dagger; SS Waist Knife and Knife Case with RAD insignia Buckle
The knife-dagger with the "Arbeit adelt" (work enobles) RAD motto belonged to a captured Field Grade RAD Officer in Dachau at the liberation. *RAD Leader Dagger Knife Belt and Buckle*

A National Labor Service Belt Buckle depicting a swastika on a shovel surrounded by wheat sheaths

The Field Grade RAD Officer was asked, "What have you done here, what have you done?" The officer answered, "They are only *Juden* (Jews)." The prisoners took their anger out on him.

Hitler's Calling Card Bowl
The 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles" were assigned to capture *Berchtesgaden*, the summer home of Hitler, located four kilometers from Dachau. On a visit to *Berchtesgaden*, Seymour Kaplan saw a "calling card bowl." He claimed it as a souvenir.

A Tank Destroyer Badge
The Official Patch of the 692 Tank Destroyer Battalion, US Army
[Shown behind Sergeant Kaplan on the exhibit poster]

Three Decorative Nazi Medals
Medal commemorating the liberation of the Saar Valley, Germany
An Epaulet from a Nazi officer's uniform
A collar decoration from a Nazi officer's uniform

A Reunion

After Sergeant Kaplan's address, those gathered for the Remembrance Ceremony had the privilege of watching him be reunited with Avraham Zelcer, who as a young man was one of the 30,000 surviving prisoners liberated by the Sergeant's battalion on April 29, 1945 The two men are third and fourth from the left, below.

Left to right: Justice Martin Shulman; Elly Kleinman, president of Amud Aish; Sergeant Seymour Kaplan, Avraham Zelcer and his children; Rabbi Sholom Friedman, director of Amud Aish. Photos below show Mr. Zelcer with his family after the war.

Amud Aish Memorial Museum
Sgt. Seymour Kaplan Collection in the Rotunda at 60 Centre Street

Books and Exhibits Examine the Holocaust; At 60 Centre Street, an Exhibit Focuses on Impediments to Reckoning with It

Readers will want to know about the exhibits and books mentioned below:

Auschwitz—Not Long Ago, Not Far Away
At The Museum of Jewish Heritage at 36 Battery Street, a moderate walk or quick subway trip from 60 Centre Street On view through the end of 2019, this extensive exhibit depicts Jewish life in pre-war Europe, the rise of Nazism and the Third Reich, the construction of Auschwitz and the atrocities perpetrated upon those it imprisoned, and Liberation. The vast collection of items assembled include a reconstructed barracks and artifacts loaned by more than 20 institutions and private collections around the world.

The Rosenburg—the German Federal Ministry of Justice in the Shadow of the Nazi Past
Installed during spring 2019 here at 60 Centre Street, where it engaged hundreds of viewers, *The Rosenburg* examines the unyielding institutional machinery that enabled the German Federal Ministry of Justice to protect high-level Nazi perpetrators who were active within its ranks well into the 1960s. Among other things, during the first post-War decades, discrimination continued, Holocaust crimes were not properly prosecuted, and many Nazi criminals benefitted from amnesties and statutes of limitation. *The Rosenburg* strikingly highlights the varieties of denial and rationalization involved. Former Chief Clerk of the court John Werner called the exhibit "an extremely moving, successful undertaking on the part of the German Republic's Ministry of Justice."

Book reviews in the Jewish Review of Books: An Indispensable Account of Theresienstadt and the Life of the Man Who Wrote It (Read in full at: https://jewishreviewofbooks.com/issue/summer-2019/ **)** Theresienstadt figures in several of the narratives included in this Remembrance Issue; a so-called "model camp" where Jews supposedly lived safe and creative lives, Theresienstadt was in fact a death mill where one in four perished and from which 88,000 people were sent to Auschwitz and other camps to be murdered. In the Summer 2019 issue of the Jewish Review of Books, Benjamin Balint reviews two volumes that deepen our understanding of the camp's workings. In *H.G. Adler, a Life in Many Worlds* (Oxford University Press) biographer Peter Filkins chronicles the life of H.G. Adler, a Jewish poet and scholar who was shipped to Theresienstadt in his prime. To survive, Adler commanded himself to "observe life in this society as soberly and objectively as a scientist studying an obscure tribe." On the strength of this resolve, after the war Adler wrote *Theresienstadt 1941–1945, The Face of a Coerced Community,* (Cambridge University Press) which details down to lists of toiletries and jobs available to prisoners Theresienstadt's savagery. Balint's commentary makes clear why both Filkins's biography of Adler and Adler's own volume need to be read by anyone involved in preventing the recurrence of one of history's worst crimes.

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH
NEW YORK COUNTY

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
NEW YORK COUNTY

MEMO

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY
Friday, May 3, 2019

To: All Judges and Non-Judicial Personnel at
60 Centre Street, 80 Centre Street, 71 Thomas Street
NYC County Clerk and Surrogate's Court

From: Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, Civil Branch

Subject: Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day - Friday, May 3, 2019

Date: April 26, 2019

The Supreme Court's Gender Fairness Committee and the New York County Clerk's Office are sponsoring **Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day on Friday, May 3, 2019.**

The day, as originally conceived by the Ms. Foundation, was intended to provide young girls, ages 8-15, with an opportunity to see women at work in a positive and productive context and to afford them an opportunity to learn about different tasks and skills used in the workplace. We hope to accomplish that goal. However, the program has been amended to include ALL children, both girls and boys.

The program will consist of: a light breakfast (bagels), greetings by Judges, brief presentations by representatives who perform various jobs within the court system and mock trials, ending with lunch (pizza) and a security demonstration. The Agenda is included with this posting. We encourage you to bring your children. We are sure that they will find the program informative and enjoyable.

NOTE: The age groups have been revised to: 8-9; 10-12; 13-15

All Supreme Court - Civil, New York County Clerk's and Surrogate's Court employees who are interested in bringing their children, **ages 8-15**, should complete the attached form and return it to **Valerie Qualls** on or before **Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Please note that Valerie is now based at 25 Beaver Street** and there may not be anyone in Chambers at 60 Centre Street. **Therefore, it is best to send via fax # (212) 428-2192 OR email to vqualls@nycourts.gov**

PLEASE SIGN UP ASAP SO THAT WE CAN ORDER SUFFICIENT REFRESHMENTS.

NOTE: The program cannot be responsible for children under eight years of age.

We are also seeking volunteers to accompany the children to the Mock Trials and to help during breakfast and lunch.

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH
NEW YORK COUNTY

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
NEW YORK COUNTY

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY
Friday, May 3, 2019

Name: _____
(Name of Mother, Father, Relative, etc.)

Location (Building): _____

Telephone Number: _____

I plan to bring the following child/children to the Court on Friday, May 3, 2019.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Name of Child

_____**Age**_____**M** ☐ **F** ☐

_____**Age**_____**M** ☐ **F** ☐

_____**Age**_____**M** ☐ **F** ☐

_____**Age**_____**M** ☐ **F** ☐

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER MY SERVICES DURING THE PROGRAM

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE CONTACT NUMBER: _____ _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ***ON*** **OR** ***BEFORE*** TUESDAY, APRIL 30th TO**:**

Valerie Qualls Tel.: (212) 428-2130
Fax: (212) 428-2192 (Attn: Valerie Qualls)
Email: vqualls@nycourts.gov

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH
NEW YORK COUNTY

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
NEW YORK COUNTY

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY
60 CENTRE STREET, Room 408
Friday, May 3, 2019

AGENDA

8:30 A.M.	-	**SET-UP**
9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. **Room 408**	-	**RECEPTION AND ORIENTATION** **BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED (BAGELS & DRINKS)**
9:30 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. **Room 408**	- -	**WELCOME REMARKS** **HON. DEBORAH KAPLAN**
	-	**VALERIE QUALLS, M.C. (Tentative)**
	-	**DONNA ALBANO, Principal Court Attorney**
	-	**CAROLYN BARNA, Court Reporter**
10:15 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.	-	**BATHROOM BREAK**
10:30 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.	-	**MOCK TRIALS**
Ages 8-9 **ROOM 335**	-	**HON. SHLOMO HAGLER & STAFF**
Ages 10 - 12 **ROOM 242**	-	**HON. NANCY BANNON & STAFF**
Ages 13 - 15 **ROOM**	-	**HON. TBA & STAFF**
12:00 P.M. - 12:45 P.M. **Room 408**	-	**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED (PIZZA AND DRINKS)**
	-	**SECURITY DEMONSTRATION** **CAPT. MICHAEL CASTELLANO & STAFF**
	-	**CONCLUSION OF PROGRAM:** **DISTRIBUTION OF GOODIE BAGS / SCHOOL LETTERS**

PARTICIPANTS ARRIVING LATE SHOULD PROCEED TO:
Room 408, AT 60 CENTRE STREET, FOR ROOM ASSIGNMENTS.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN FROM Room 408 NO LATER THAN 12:45

The 16th Annual

Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Program

Friday, June 28, 2019
12:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County
60 Centre Street, Rotunda

Featuring international food selections, music, and dance performances celebrating our diversity. This event is free and open to the public. Food will be served following the musical performance by the New York State Pipe & Drum Band.

Presented by The Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County; The Cultural Diversity Sub Committee; and The New York County Clerk's Office

The Gender Fairness Committee
Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch
presents

The 2019 Domestic Violence Awareness Program
featuring a special presentation by

Jennifer Herbert
Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation
Associate Vice President of Programs

Jennifer Herbert has over 15 years of clinical experience working with children, families and communities affected by trauma, violence and homelessness.

In her current role at the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation, Ms. Herbert addresses the cumulative effects of isolation and complex trauma, with an emphasis on prevention and intervention, and works to build and cultivate relationships with participants of the program as well as various community partners. She has provided training nationally and internationally to educators, clinicians, and other professionals on topics such as trauma-informed practices, self-care and organizational wellness, vicarious trauma and best practices in trauma-informed services, art-based programming, creative arts therapy, curriculum development, the impact of trauma and violence on children, adolescents and adults, and more.

Friday, November 22, 2019
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
60 Centre Street, Room 540
New York, New York
This event is free and open to the public.

The Gender Fairness Committee of New York County
Supreme Court, Civil Branch
Proudly Presents

The 2019 Domestic Violence Awareness Program

November 22, 2019
1:00 P.M.
Supreme Court, New York County
60 Centre Street, Room 540, New York, New York

Welcome

HONORABLE DEBORAH A. KAPLAN

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR CIVIL MATTERS,
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
CO-CHAIRPERSON OF THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE,
SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY, CIVIL BRANCH

Introduction Of The Keynote Speaker

HONORABLE MATTHEW F. COOPER

APPELLATE TERM, FIRST DEPARTMENT &
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIRPERSON

Keynote Speaker

JENNIFER HERBERT

JOE TORRE SAFE AT HOME FOUNDATION
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS

Closing Remarks

GREGORY F. TESTA, ESQ.

ASSOCIATE COURT ATTORNEY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIRPERSON

About Our Guest Speaker Jennifer Herbert

Jennifer Herbert presently serves as the Associate Vice President of Programs at the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation. She has over 15 years of clinical experience working with children, families and communities affected by trauma, violence and homelessness.

In her current role at the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation, Ms. Herbert addresses the cumulative effects of isolation and complex trauma, with an emphasis on prevention and intervention, and works to build and cultivate relationships with participants of the program as well as various community partners. She has provided training nationally and internationally to educators, clinicians, and other professionals on topics such as trauma-informed practices, self-care and organizational wellness, vicarious trauma and best practices in trauma-informed services, art-based programming, creative arts therapy, curriculum development, the impact of trauma and violence on children, adolescents and adults, and more.

About The Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation

Founded in 2002, the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation helps children impacted by violence and abuse in their homes, schools, and communities. By providing resources and support, young people at the Foundation are able to cope with their trauma and find hope, healing, and empowerment for their futures. The Foundation's model is unique because it provides both clinical intervention and prevention services.

At 15 school locations, the Foundation establishes a safe room - known as Margaret's Place, named after Joe Torre's mother. These rooms are staffed by a master's-level therapist. In this setting, the Foundation has group and individual counseling for young people experiencing trauma, has workshops for teachers to build a safer school environment, holds workshops for parents to make homes and communities stronger, raises awareness on how to prevent violence of all kinds and empowers young people to become advocates and leaders.

The Foundation's areas of focus include domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence, and community violence. Programs are currently located in New York City and Westchester County, NY; Los Angeles, CA; Cincinnati, OH; and Union City, NJ.

The Gender fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Branch

Committee chairpersons: Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Gregory F. Testa, Esq.

Committee members: Simone Abrams, Donna Albano, Esq., Kelechi Acholonu, Esq., Doina Rosu Almazon, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Michelle Furey, PJ Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Steven Helfont, Esq., Yesenia Herrera, Officer Cecily Hernandez, Judith Rikin, Esq., Hon. Lynn Kotler, Joan Levenson, Esq., Ilana Marcus, Esq., Mahnoor Misbah, Valerie Qualls, Sheila Riley-Aultman, Hon. Lori Sattler, Hon. O. Peter Sherwood, Hon. Milton Tingling, Officer Shadai Wilkins.

Thank you to Luis Carrero, Michelle Gonsieski, and Naomi Ruiz.

Gender Bias Committee, New York County,
Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Hon. Erika Edwards and Lisa M. White-Tingling, Chairs

Gender Fairness Committee of New York County Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Chairs: Hon. Erika Edwards JSC and Lisa White-Tingling, Court Clerk Specialist

Members: Hon. Erika Edwards; Lisa White-Tingling; Hon. Ellen Biben; Christopher DiSanto; Betty Santiago Michele D. Hendricks; Carissa Zucco; Michael McKee, Betty Santiago; Rachel Bigio; Julia Valette; Peter Kiefer; Michael Stein; Nicole Beckford; Nicole Leary; Thelma Greenidge; Alana Gardner; Dia Rogers; Lorraine Gizzarelli; Ariel Morales; Dean Hutchins

Counties served: New York

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: 2/5; several meetings by email
Average Attendance: 10
Do you use Videoconferencing? No

2019 Special Events

Special Events or Activities
The Committee launched a Women's History Month Historical Campaign. 3 times each week during the month of March 2019, the Committee sent mass emails highlighting specific women in history or women's milestones. Each article had a connection to NY.

RBG-Lunchtime movie and popcorn - March 7th & 8th

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended?
RBG Movie: 46
Was there any press before or after? No

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020: 2/26. Other dates TBD

Special Events & Educational Programs
Women's History Month and others to include a written campaign for Men's Health Awareness Month; CLE course, Stress Relief, movie

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020? Addressing gender identity

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and Breastfeeding Space.

Do you see unmet training needs? No

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse?
Nutritional Impact on work productivity

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
No

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Spcr_All_Employees; Supreme Civil Manh 60C; New York-County Clerk; 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 1

For the month of March, The Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term will share periodic installments of information about women. Please join us in this celebration.

On this first day of Women's History Month, The Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term pays tribute to
Jane Matilda Bolin, a woman of many firsts.
Born in 1908 in Poughkeepsie, NY, Jane Bolin attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts. In 1931, she became the first African-American female to graduate from Yale Law School. The first African-American woman to be admitted to the NYC Bar Association, she worked in private practice with her husband from 1932-1937, then 2 years as the first African-American female attorney at NYC Corporation Counsel. In 1939 Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia appointed her as judge of the Domestic Relations Court—later NYC Family Court—giving Jane Matilda Bolin the distinction as the first African-American female judge in the United States, holding her seat on the bench for 40 years. Judge Bolin died in 2007.

"Those gains we have made were never graciously and generously granted. We have had to fight every inch of the way" -- *Jane Bolin*

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Supreme Civil Manh 60C; Spcr_All_Employees; New York-County Clerk; 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users
Subject: Women's History Month - #2

Welcome to today's celebration of Women's History Month brought to you by the Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term.

One of the most iconic landmarks of NYC, serving as the backdrop for NY County courts, is the **Brooklyn Bridge**. Washington Roebling was the chief engineer of the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. His assistant was his wife **Emily Warren Roebling** of Cold Spring, NY. As newlyweds, the couple traveled to Europe where both studied bridge construction and caisson foundation. During construction, Washington fell incapacitated with Decompression Sickness. For more than a decade Emily was chief engineer, hands on supervisor, project manager while simultaneously caring for her husband. She was the main point person. Although her husband was bed-ridden, Emily fought politicians to maintain Washington's title as Chief Engineer. The Bridge was completed in 1883, and **Emily Warren Roebling** was the first to cross it by carriage with President Chester Arthur.
Congressman Abram Hewitt, said of her: "The name of Emily Warren Roebling will...be inseparably associated with all that is admirable in human nature and all that is wonderful in the constructive world of art."

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Supreme Civil Manh 60C; Spcr_All_Employees; New York-County Clerk; 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 3

On this day of Women's History Month, The Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term pays tribute to **Lieutenant Eileen Collins.**

Lt. Collins is a graduate of Syracuse University with a Bachelors of Arts degree in mathematics and Economics. Subsequently, she earned her Master of Science degree in Operations Research from Stanford University, as well as a Master of Arts degree in Space Systems Management from Webster University. She then became one of the first of four women admitted to Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

Lt. Collins was the Air Force's first woman flight instructor. Then in 1995, with 419 hours in space, Eileen Collins also became the first female astronaut to pilot and later command a U.S. Space shuttle. She was second-in-command of the *Discovery* shuttle during its famous rendezvous with the Russian space station Mir. And in 1999, Lt. Collins was commander of the historic ride to deploy a $1.5 billion telescope into earth's orbit aboard the shuttle *Columbia*, the same spacecraft which met a disastrous end in 2003. Encyclopedia Brittanica has placed her on their lists of 300 Women Who Changed the World.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From:	Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent:	Friday, March 08, 2019 9:25 AM
To:	Supreme Civil Manh 60C; 60_Lafayette-All; New York-County Clerk; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; Spcr_All_Employees; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St
Subject:	WHM Celebration Installment 4

Today is International Women's Day. The Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term invite you to celebrate with us as we honor the women who blazed the trail for all women in the United States military.

1917 was the year that the first woman was allowed to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces as a non-nurse. On the eve of WWI, Loretta P. Walsh, enlisted in the US Navy and was soon ranked Chief Yeoman. Her duties were clerical as women were not allowed in combat. Not officially. Ms. Walsh may have been the first enlisted, but there were others, hundreds of others, before her who fought alongside male soldiers in war. Those women had to serve their country disguised as men. Meet just two of them.

Deborah Sampson served in the Revolutionary War as Timothy Thayer. She was discharged not long after as her true identity was revealed by someone familiar. She went to a different town and re-enlisted as Robert Shirtliff. Sampson was wounded in war and had to perform surgery on herself to remove bullets from her own leg in order to protect her identity. After one year and a half of service and gender discovery, she was honorably discharged at West Point.

Decades later, successfully escaping an arranged marriage, and her abusive father, who really wanted a son, 15 year old Sarah Emma Edmonds (or Edmondson) posed as a man and made her way from Canada to the United States. Her assumed named was Franklin Thompson. Sarah worked as a traveling bible salesman until her passion for the Union's cause led her to join its army for a 3 year term. Seeing combat at least once in the Civil War, Sarah mainly served as courier, nurse, stretcher bearer and spy. On behalf of the Union, Sarah acted as an Irish fruit peddler, dyed her skin to pose as a black man and again as a black laundress. 2 years into her service, she fell ill with malaria and refused treatment for fear of discovery of her gender. She was denied furlough and left on her own. Because she abandoned the army, she was dishonorably discharged as a deserter. Years later, through an Act of Congress, the "dishonor" was removed and she was awarded her pension.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:31 AM
To: 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; New York-County Clerk; Spcr_All_Employees; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; Supreme Civil Manh 60C; betsantia9
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 5

On this day of Women's History Month, The Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term pays tribute to **Elizabeth Jennings Graham.**

You may know the story about a particular woman who insisted on remaining in her seat on a bus in Alabama, but New York has its own story.

Born in 1827, **Elizabeth Jennings Graham** is known for fighting for her right to ride on a New York City streetcar at a time where these cars had segregated seating. In 1854, Ms. Jennings, a school teacher, was running late on her way to church and took a street car, boarding **at Pearl and Chatham Streets**. She resisted when the conductor ordered her to get off. Eventually, she was forcibly removed by the conductor with help from the police, causing her to be injured. The incident received national attention in newspapers. Her father (who, as an aside, was the first African-American patent holder) sued on her behalf. Ms. Jennings was represented in court by future president Chester A. Arthur in ***Jennings v. Third Ave. Railroad.*** In 1855, the court ruled in her favor. In his charge to the Jury, Brooklyn Circuit Court Judge William Rockwell declared: "Colored persons if sober, well behaved and free from disease, had the same rights as others and could neither be excluded by any rules of the company, nor by force or violence." Jennings was awarded money in damages and the next day, the Third Avenue Railroad Company ordered its cars desegregated. It would take another 10 years for NYC's public transportation systems to become fully desegregated.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Supreme Civil Manh 60C; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; Spcr_All_Employees; New York-County Clerk; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; 60_Lafayette-All; betsantia9
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 6

On this day of Women's History Month, The Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term takes a quick look at the female juror.

The 1656 trial of Judith Catchpole in Maryland required an all-female jury – the first in the United States. Ms. Catchpole was accused of witchcraft and infanticide on her voyage from England. The victim was supposedly her own child, supposedly birthed on the boat, albeit no one ever saw it, such was the accusation. Her accuser seemed to have been a madman who died before the trial commenced. This jury was responsible for weighing the evidence and administering the physical examination of the defendant. They concluded that Ms. Catchpole never had a baby. She was acquitted of all charges.

The country, although not yet a country, saw its first mixed gender jury in 1701 in Albany, NY. On July 4, 1776 the 13 colonies declared its independence from Britain. The United States of America. In 1777, all states enacted laws prohibiting women from serving on juries.

In December 1869, Wyoming Territory (not to be confused with NY's Wyoming County) granted a bill under the Suffrage Act, giving women rights to vote and serve on juries. Less than 6 months later, in Laramie, WY, Elizabeth Stewart Boyd, a teacher, became the country's first female grand juror as her name was the first drawn of the 6 women who served. Mary Jane Mackle and Jane Hilton, natives of New York, also served on that grand jury. Under a new administration, Wyoming revoked these rights in 1871. They would wait nearly 80 years to get it back.

New York State granted women the right to serve on juries in 1937. Unlike their male counterparts, they were able to ask for and receive excusals. Mrs. Julia Ehrentreu served as the first juror and forewoman in New York City. She and 5 other women jurors were included on the trial of Jackson v. Jackson, a divorce action in NY County Supreme Court.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Supreme Civil Manh 60C; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; Spcr_All_Employees; New York-County Clerk; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; 60_Lafayette-All; betsantia9
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 7

Good morning. Join us as The Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term celebrates strides made by local law enforcement.

In 1845, law and order was overseen in New York City by the Municipal Police. That year they created the new job title/position called Police Jail Matron. Men, women and children were housed together at that time. The police jail matrons were tasked with monitoring the women and children. 6 were hired. They were the first women to work in NY's police department. Then the NYC Metropolitan Police was formed in 1857. A riot broke out on the steps of City Hall between the 2 police forces with Metropolitan Police prevailing. They took over as the police department of NYC – predecessors of the NYPD. Under this new agency, the position of Police Matron was created through an 1888 legislation.

In 1895, after her police officer husband died leaving her with 6 children, **Isabella Goodwin** applied for and tested to become a police matron. She was appointed to the position by then-Commissioner and future president Theodore Roosevelt. After years of service, she began doing investigative work. In 1912, she went undercover and cracked a major robbery case. Mrs. Goodwin was given as official ranking position with the now-NYPD, making her New York's first female detective.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 7:36 AM
To: 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; Supreme Civil Manh 60C; Spcr_All_Employees; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; betsantia9
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 8

At this midpoint of women's history month, the Gender Fairness Committee of NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term celebrates East meets West.

The courts of NY County are situated within the boundaries of Chinatown. Chinese immigrants started to populate the area in the 1860s and 1870s. According to the US Census of 1900, there were about 7000 men in the area and only 142 Chinese women. That ratio didn't begin to change until about 1965.
But decades before the 7000, and the 142, there was one Chinese woman who stepped onto American soil and made headlines.

Afong Moy is noted as the first Chinese woman to come to the US. The Carne brothers were traders who were interested in broadening trade between the US and China. Afong was the marketing instrument that the brothers felt would help this mission. Somewhere between 15 and 19 years old, Afong Moy arrived in NY from Canton City, China in 1834. Once here, Americans paid to see her on stage at one of her two daily shows. Her setting depicted her culture. Of interest were her look, language, fashion, and her 4 inch bound feet. The show toured to several major cities and even the White House where Moy met President Andrew Jackson. Her stay was supposed to have been very short termed but she was here for about 15 years. There are various opinions about Moy's activity in America but it seems that she took the position that she was an ambassador for her people -- an invitation for the West to explore the beauty of her people, an attempt to dispel any myths and a hope to assist in the formation of a friendship between nations.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 12:29 PM
To: Supreme Civil Manh 60C; SPCR_CLERK_GROUP; New York-County Clerk; 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; betsantia9
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 9

Good morning and join the Gender Fairness Committee of NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term as we recognize a role that we don't usually associate with women.

The James Bond franchise has made billions of dollars. The series, about a fictitious British CIA agent, gives espionage an element of glamour. But in the real world, there have been many women who have taken this task to further our country along. Here are two who happened to have had a little NY in their background.

One of General George Washington's special intelligence units during the time of the American Revolutionary War was called the Culper Ring. It is believed that **Anna Smith Strong** of Setauket, LI, was the only female spy in the group. Anna did her workings right under Britain's watch. She would communicate through the petticoat code – hanging her petticoat up to dry, tacking a kerchiefs to it. The number of kerchiefs attached would advise her colleagues which cove to meet to trade intelligence. The Culper Ring is credited for discovering and thwarting the ambush of America's French allies in Rhode Island and information on traitorous Benedict Arnold.

The Nazis determined that America's **Virginia Hall** "was the most dangerous of all allied spies." A woman with the gift for languages and adventures, she attended Barnard College among other prestigious universities. She was known as The Limping Lady after accidently shooting herself in the leg leaving her permanently damaged and requiring her to use a wooden leg. Virginia worked for the British Special Operations Executive and with the USA's Office of Strategic Services and Central Intelligence Agency. She worked under the guise of a NY Post reporter. She was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for her many achievements during World War II including assisting in the escape of British pilots downed by German forces, assisting in capturing 500 Germans and forwarding information to allies.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Supreme Civil Manh 60C; Spcr_All_Employees; New York-County Clerk; 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; betsantia9
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 10

Today The Gender Fairness Committee of NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term will spotlight Shirley Chisholm, a trailblazer and pioneer of American politics -- "Unbought and Unbossed."

The child of Caribbean immigrants, **Shirley Chisholm** was born in Brooklyn in 1924. The oldest of four daughters, she spent part of her childhood with her maternal grandmother in Barbados. Chisholm married twice and never had children.

Chisholm's ability for debate, an ability she would put to great use during her political career, was apparent since high school. While attending Brooklyn College and studying early education she resisted suggestions to go into politics, because she felt at a double disadvantage for being a black woman.

After obtaining a Master's degree from Columbia University and working as a consultant for the city's Division of Day Care, her interest in social justice overcame her reservations and she entered the political arena. In 1964 she became the second black woman to be elected to the New York State Assembly and in 1968 she became the first black woman to be elected to congress. The freshman congresswoman found herself assigned to the House Agricultural Committee, where she did not believe she could best serve her urban constituency. This was unprecedented, but she prevailed and was reassigned to the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Ms. Chisholm served in congress for seven terms, introducing more than 50 pieces of legislation, she opposed the Vietnam war, championed gender and racial equality and the plight of the poor. She became the second woman to be assigned to the House Rules Committee. In 1972 she became the first black woman to seek the presidential nomination from one of the major political parties. Even southern segregationist George Wallace became a fan and supporter.

"Fighting Shirley" died in 2005, but she has left us with many quotes that remain relevant today. Including the always applicable "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:51 AM
To: Supreme Civil Manh 60C; Spcr_All_Employees; New York-County Clerk; 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; betsantia9
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 11

Good morning. Today the Gender fairness Committee of NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term pays tribute to a legendary investigative reporter.

In 1885, at the age of 21, **Elizabeth Cochran(e) Seaman** was outraged by an article written in her local Pittsburgh newspaper. The article, positing that women were worth little more than having babies and housekeeping, prompted a strong rebuttal from Elizabeth. The editor was so impressed with her writing that he sought after and hired her. Many female reporters used a pseudonym and the unknown Elizabeth became the famous and influential **Nellie Bly.**

Looking for bigger opportunities, Nellie moved to NY a few years later.

Roosevelt Island, previously called Blackwell's Island, was once home to a poorhouse, a penitentiary, an infectious disease hospital, and a notorious insane asylum. Nellie was assigned to uncover the rumored atrocities contained within the asylum. Pretending to be mentally deranged, she spent 10 dangerous days locked in the severely overcrowded facility. Her work revealed several wrongs including: staff shortages – 1 to 100 doctor-patient ratio; a large percentage of patients were mentally healthy – they were just poor, or non-English speaking immigrants (mostly female); the "treatments" were brutal. Within 10 days of her release and report, major changes were implemented to the system. Abusive staff were fired, mentally stable patients were released, fresh food was supplied, and the legislative process was accelerated to approve the equivalent of 24 million dollars to be added to the budget for mental institutions.

A few years later, in 1889, Nellie decided to try to break the record of Jules Verne's protagonist Phileas Fogg. Fogg took 80 days to circumnavigate the globe. At the time, Bly wrote for the New York World newspaper. Upon hearing of Bly's intentions, another newspaper sponsored their own traveler to attempt the trip leaving at the same time going in the opposite direction. (Bly was not in competition with this person.) Traveling mostly alone, with very little money and belongings, Nellie Bly "won," returning to NY in 72 days, 16 hours and 11 minutes.

Her words serve as an encouragement to us all. "Energy rightly applied and directed will accomplish anything."

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 12:32 PM
To: Supreme Civil Manh 60C; Spcr_All_Employees; New York-County Clerk; 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; betsantia9; Linda Dunlap-Miller; Hon. Anthony Cannataro; Hon. Peter H. Moulton
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 12

Today the Gender Fairness Committee of NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term highlights a champion in literacy.

Born in Puerto Rico somewhere between 1898 and 1903, **Pura Belpré** would go on to become the first Latina librarian in the city of New York. She arrived in the city in 1921 as a young college student and started working for the NYPL as they increased their efforts to reach the growing Spanish speaking population. Ms. Belpré was an example of "community outreach" before the term was coined. Her bilingual story time, complete with puppets she created herself, was a way to show Spanish speakers that the library was not only "in English." The position that the library created was called Hispanic Assistant. Ms. Belpré traveled throughout the city inspiring future librarians and bringing a voice of diversity to the NYPL. Word also spread about her in parts of Latin America. In time Ms. Belpré realized that not only was there a need for Spanish speakers in the library, but also for books in Spanish. Always geared towards children, she became an author by reinterpreting the folk stories of her childhood. This included such classics as the romance between Perez the mouse and Martina the cockroach.

In recognition of her efforts, in 1966 the American Library Association created the Pura Belpré Award. This is yearly award is granted to Latin authors and illustrators whose outstanding work in children's literature "portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience." Ms. Belpré worked for the New York Public Library for 45 years.

Even with Ms. Belpré's early recognition of the need for authors such as herself, there remains room for progress. It is calculated that although about 25 percent of the school age children are Hispanic, only about three percent of children book authors are Hispanic.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

Lisa M. White-Tingling

From: Lisa M. White-Tingling
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 11:45 AM
To: Supreme Civil Manh 60C; Spcr_All_Employees; New York-County Clerk; 60_Lafayette-All; Civil_Court_NYC_All_Users_at_111_Centre_St; Criminal NYC 100 Centre - All Users; 25 Beaver Users; Hon. Peter H. Moulton; Hon. Anthony Cannataro; Linda Dunlap-Miller; Charlotte A. Watson
Subject: WHM Celebration Installment 13

Today is our final installment of the Women's History Month campaign. It has been a pleasure for the Gender Fairness Committee of the NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term to share in your daily break by shedding light on a few women or women's milestones. In each story there was at least a little NY. To many of us, this court system is sort of an odd family system. We started this series with one of our own -- from our Family Court side of the family -- and we will end it the same way. Thank you for taking the time to read. Today we lift up the first female justice in New York State.

Justine Wise Polier grew up learning and witnessing advocacy in her home. She was the daughter of renowned activist Rabbi Stephen Wise – a founding member of the American Jewish Congress, Free Synagogue, and the NAACP; and Louise Waterman Wise -- assistant to and strong voice for Jews fleeing Europe during pre-WWII and founder of Child Adoption Agency of the Free Synagogue. Polier is a graduate of Horace Mann High School, Barnard College (she made stops at Bryn Mawr and Radcliffe) and Yale Law School -- where she was editor of the Yale Law Journal. In 1935 she was appointed to the Domestic Relations court (now Family Court) by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia.

Along with her mother, Polier partnered with first lady Eleanor Roosevelt on several endeavors. Taking a short leave from the bench, she worked with Mrs. Roosevelt to create the Wiltwyck School for Boys which was an institution specifically geared toward aiding delinquent, potentially delinquent and later emotionally disturbed black boys as their needs were not addressed in their communities. Also, before and during WWII, these dynamic women focused on urging the US government to lift the limitations on the number of Jews that were allowed to enter this country in attempt to escape Europe as Hitler's reign grew. They were at the forefront of establishing accommodations for the thousands of refugees who made it out.

Polier was ever the champion for bettering the lives of the disadvantaged both on and off the bench. She hoped to use her judicial position to affect social change. In 1958, in the famous Skipwith case, Justice Polier determined that there was de facto segregation in the NYC school system. She succeeded her mother as chief executive of the Louise Wise Services for Children – a NYC agency with the mission of placing orphaned children in homes. In 1973, she helped initiate a class action bringing to light and challenging that the foster care/adoption system was discriminatory both racially and religiously. Her own agency was named in the action.

Justice Polier served on the NYC Family Court for nearly 4 decades.

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments.

RBG

LUNCHTIME MOVIE

JOIN US FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Thurs & Fri **MARCH** **7TH & 8TH**	**100 Centre St.** **Part 99** **Room 1530**	**1 : 00 PM**

BRING YOUR LUNCH

POPCORN PROVIDED

The Gender Fairness Committee of

NY County Supreme Court Criminal Term

New York County Criminal Court
Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Heidi C. Cesare, Judge of the Criminal Court, and Gloria Keum, Esq., Outgoing Chairs; Hon. Ilana Marcus, JCC and Hon. Charlotte Davidson, JCC, Incoming Chairs

New York County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: (Outgoing) Hon. Heidi C. Cesare, Judge of the Criminal Court, and Gloria Keum, Esq.; (Incoming) Hon. Ilana Marcus, JCC and Hon. Charlotte Davidson, JCC

Members: See attached list.

Counties served: New York

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: December 6 - Committee members Holiday breakfast October 15 - CLE Program: "Cyber Sexual Abuse and the new Penal Law §245.15" April 30 - CLE program: "Gender Fairness and the Rape Kit backlog" February 28 - Committee members meeting with guest speakers from UPNEXT, Midtown Community Court
Average Attendance: 10 - 15
Do you use Videoconferencing? No

2019 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
CLE program: "Cyber Sexual Abuse and the new Penal Law §245.15"

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended?
Approximately 70+ attendees at each CLE program.
Was there any press before or after? No

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020:
To be determined

Special Events & Educational Programs
Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and others to be determined

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020? Continuing education regarding sexual harassment. Protecting witnesses and victims in sex offense prosecutions under the new criminal justice legislation. CPL Art 245.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? No

Do you see unmet training needs? No

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? Sex offenses and protection orders under CPL Article 245.

Areas of success during 2019 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:
Our committee has received very positive feedback on our free, lunchtime CLE programs.

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations

Members:

Alan Mass (amass@nycourts.gov)	amass@nycourts.gov
Alana N Gardner (agardner@nycourts.gov)	agardner@nycourts.gov
almudallala@dany.nyc.gov	almudallala@dany.nyc.gov
Alyssa Grzesh	agrzesh@gmail.com
Angel Rodriguez	arodriguez@avenuesforjustice.org
Arlethia Howard (amhoward@nycourts.gov)	amhoward@nycourts.gov
Belinda Piters (bpiters@nycourts.gov)	bpiters@nycourts.gov
Bonnie Laurie (blaurie@nycourts.gov)	blaurie@nycourts.gov
branchl@dany.nyc.gov	branchl@dany.nyc.gov
cdalporto@legal-aid.org	cdalporto@legal-aid.org
Cheres Espinosa-Fernandez (cespinos@nycourts.gov)	cespinos@nycourts.gov
connollyc@dany.nyc.gov	connollyc@dany.nyc.gov
Cori Weston (chweston@nycourts.gov)	chweston@nycourts.gov
Danielle Von Lehman	dvlesq.ny@gmail.com
Darlene M. Moore-McNeil	damoore@nycourts.gov
DAWN C CUNNINGHAM	dcunning@nycourts.gov
Elizabeth Anne Fischer	efischer@ndsny.org
Elizabeth P. D'Antonio	dantonioe@dany.nyc.gov
Gloria Keum, Esq.	gloria@keumlaw.com
Hermes E. Mena (hmena@nycourts.gov)	hmena@nycourts.gov
Hon. Erika Edwards	eedwards@nycourts.gov
Hon. Heidi C. Cesare	hcesare@nycourts.gov
Hon. Ilana Marcus	imarcus@nycourts.gov
Hon. James G. Clynes	jclynes@nycourts.gov
Hon. Josh Hanshaft	jhanshaf@nycourts.gov
Hon. Judy H. Kim	jhkim@nycourts.gov
Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff	/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn= 3e97ee1d644a43a5a92fad952f20090a-Lisa A. Sok
Hon. Steven M. Statsinger	smstatsin@nycourts.gov
Houleye Sy (hsy@nycourts.gov)	hsy@nycourts.gov
Jaqueline Cistaro	jcistaro@comcast.net
Jared F Kraminitz (jkramini@nycourts.gov)	jkramini@nycourts.gov
Jessica Jang (jjang@nycourts.gov)	jjang@nycourts.gov
Judie Saunders	judie@jsaunderslawfirm.com
Judith A. Caragine (jcaragin@nycourts.gov)	jcaragin@nycourts.gov
Judith Rifkin (jrifkin@nycourts.gov)	jrifkin@nycourts.gov
Katherine Bajuk	kbajuk@nycds.org
Katherine Heavey	kheavey@ndsny.org
Kay Marmorek (kmarmore@nycourts.gov)	kmarmore@nycourts.gov
Keith Schmidt (kschmidt@nycourts.gov)	kschmidt@nycourts.gov
Kelli Sheppard-Small (ksheppar@nycourts.gov)	ksheppar@nycourts.gov
Lisa Lindsay (llindsay@nycourts.gov)	llindsay@nycourts.gov

MADHU MISHRA (mmishra@nycourts.gov)	mmishra@nycourts.gov
Matt Knecht (MKnecht@ndsny.org)	MKnecht@ndsny.org
Melissa A. Crane (macrane@nycourts.gov)	macrane@nycourts.gov
Melissa Livingston (mlivings@nycourts.gov)	mlivings@nycourts.gov
Melvin Dubinsky	trialguy@verizon.net
Michelle Grant	mgrant@ndsny.org
Mourges, Melissa	mourgesm@dany.nyc.gov
Rebecca Heinsen	rheinsen@legal-aid.org
Rene A. Medina (rmedina1@nycourts.gov)	rmedina1@nycourts.gov
Rick Pasacreta	pasacreta@mac.com
Sarah Kaufmann	skaufmann@nycds.org
Shinaike Phillip	sphillip@avenuesforjustice.org
Susan Miguel (smiguel@nycourts.gov)	smiguel@nycourts.gov
Suzanne White (suzwhite@nycourts.gov)	suzwhite@nycourts.gov
Tonya Hill (thill@nycourts.gov)	/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=632bb24ab0e749c0a5d355285a95b125-THILL
Weston Muench	wmuench@avenuesforjustice.org
Xiomara Hinestroza-Bryson (xhinestroza@nycourts.gov)	xhinestroza@nycourts.gov

SAVE THE DATE

Appellate Division, First Department and
Assigned Counsel Plan for the First Department
in conjunction with
Gender Fairness Committees of the NYC Criminal and Supreme Court Criminal Term and NYWBA Criminal Law Committee
invite you to a lunchtime CLE program

to be held at 100 Centre Street, Room 535

Topic: **Gender Fairness and the Rape Kit Backlog**

Date: **Tuesday, April 30**

Time: **1:00 pm – 2:15 pm**

Speaker: **Martha Bashford, Esq.**
Chief Sex Crimes Unit, Manhattan DA's Office
Melissa Mourges, Esq.
Chief, Forensic Science/Cold Case Unit, Manhattan DA's Office

CLE: One (1) Diversity credit

Registration: In-person beginning at 12:45 pm

For further information, contact Frank Loss at floss@nycourts.gov

SAVE THE DATE

Appellate Division, First Department and
the Assigned Counsel Plan for the First Department
in conjunction with
NYC Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee and
the NYWBA Criminal Law Committee
invite you to a lunchtime CLE program

**To be held at the New York County Criminal Court,
100 Centre Street, Room 535 (Jury 2)**

Topic: **Cyber Sexual Abuse and the new Penal Law §245.15 (Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image)**

Date: **Tuesday, October 15**

Time: **1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

Speakers: **Sadie Holzman Diaz, Esq.**
Senior Staff Attorney at Sanctuary for Families
Jessica E. Morak, Esq.
Staff Attorney at Sanctuary for Families

One (1) diversity, inclusion and elimination of bias credit

In-person registration begins at 12:45 pm

Inquiries may be addressed to Frank Loss, Principal Court Attorney to the Hon. Heidi C. Cesare, at floss@nycourts.gov

Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Term, Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Miriam Cyrulnik, Chair

Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: Hon. Miriam Cyrulnik, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court

Members: Maria Aragona, Esq. (law clerk); Kate Belsito; Helene Blank, Esq.; Kristen Borruso, Esq. (law clerk); Frank Cali, Esq. (law clerk); Lucinda DiSalvo; Donna Farrell (Deputy Chief Clerk of the Civil Term); Hon. Lara Genovesi; Irena Goldkeyer, Esq. (law clerk); Colleen Martin-Morris, Esq. (law clerk); Brittany Mazzatto; Jeanette Mercedes, Esq. (law clerk); Sherveal Mimes, Esq. (law clerk); Margherita Racanelli, Esq. (law clerk); Hon. Dineen Riviezzo; Meryl Schwartz, Esq. (President, Brooklyn Women's Bar Association); Noreen Soto-Fier, Esq. (law clerk); Marea Wachsman, Esq.

Counties served: Kings

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: January 16, April 25, July 2 (via email), October 4 (via email)
Average Attendance: 8
Do you use videoconferencing? No

Special Events and Activities
Bring Your Child to Work Day: Our committee members were actively involved in the Bring Your Child to Work Day program in April. They assisted in program planning as well as attending and assisting on the day of the event.

Mock Trial: Our primary responsibility is developing and overseeing the Mock Trial. This was a civil case, involving a lawsuit by the Big Bad Wolf against the Three Little Pigs. Several of our members also arranged to provide kosher for Passover food and snacks for the attendees observing the holiday.

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month
Biographies of notable women were posted daily to the employee page, accessible by all court employees. The biographies were prepared by Kate Belsito, then-secretary to Hon. Dineen Riviezzo.

Who and how many attended?
Approximately 50 children participated in the full day program.
How were your special events advertised or marketed? Flyer
Was there any press before or after? Yes

Future Plans

Meeting Dates: March 18, April 14, others to be determined

Special Events & Educational Programs: Women's History Month and Alzheimer's Awareness Month. In November 2018, we presented a program entitled "The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease" focusing on the disproportionate impact of the disease on women as patients and caregivers. The attendees found the program very informative and helpful. We anticipate another such program in November.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020? Improving the promotion of qualified women to leadership roles, in both the judicial and non-judicial realms.

Concerns

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? No

Do you see unmet training needs? No

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations

Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Robin Sheares, Outgoing Chair and
Hon. Consuelo Mallafre Incoming Chair

Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: (Outgoing) Hon. Robin K. Sheares, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court and Hon. Theresa Cicotto, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court; (Incoming) Hon. Consuelo Mallafre

Members: Hon. Consuelo Mallafre, Hon. Cheryl Gonzales, Hon. Lorna McAllister, Hon. Remy Smith, Elaine R. Schack-Rodriguez, Tawanna M. St. Louis, Lt. Tawya Young, Lena Ferrera, Renee Sealy-Simmons, Tanya Faye, Laurana Springer, Lisa St. Rose, Latea Riley-Peterson, Liana Rivers, and Officer Sidney Moses

Counties served: Kings

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: Monthly
Average Attendance: 15
Do you use Videoconferencing? No

2019 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month
Awards Ceremony based on the theme: **Visionary Champions of Peace and Nonviolence**

Other Special Events
Men's Health walk started in June, every Friday for Men's Health Awareness month, then continued until weather prohibited the walks.

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email and Flyers

Who and how many attended?
Women's History month, court employees and the public attended, approximately 75 total. For the Walk, at least 8 walkers on most Fridays.

Was there any press before or after? Yes, for Women's History Month.

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020: 1/31, 2/5 and monthly on the first Tuesday of each month. Additional meetings will be held in advance of planned programs. Next Special meeting is scheduled for 2/26.

Special Events & Educational Programs
Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Men's Health Month

A program is planned for Women's History Month celebrating the people who have fought for women's right to vote. We will have a speaker on the subject and will honor court staff who are committed to ensuring voter accessibility.

An educational seminar is planned for March in conjunction with the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association on Breast and Ovarian cancers.

Other program will be developed throughout the year.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020? Promotional disparity and discrepancy in job opportunities for women in the work place continue to be important. Implicit sexual harassment is a topic that continues to be relevant and awareness and sensitivity to LGBTQ issues.

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? Health issues affecting men and women and LGBTQ acceptance

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Yes, Bar Associations

Brooklyn Daily Eagle

https://brooklyneagle.com/articles/2019/03/28/civil-court-honors-three-during-womens-history-month-celebration/

Civil Court honors three during Women's History Month celebration

March 28, 2019 By Hannah Grossman

The Civil Court's Gender Fairness Committee, along with the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, honored three employees on Wednesday as part of a Women's History Month celebration. Pictured from left are honorees: Officer John Campisi, Lieutenant Tawnya Young, Minister Taharka Robinson. Eagle photos by Hannah Grossman

The Kings County Civil Court's Gender Fairness Committee marked Women's History Month on Wednesday by celebrating "heroes of the court" that show off the humility and compassion that lie behind the curtain in the Brooklyn justice system.

“Our goal is to honor the unsung heroes,” said Justice Theresa Ciccotto. “Every day the honorees make other people happy and comfortable and they don’t seek personal accolades. They don’t do it to pursue an agenda. They do it because that’s what is in their heart. And we’re taking the time to acknowledge all the efforts that are coming in.”

The honorees included Reverend Taharka Robinson, court officer Lt. Tawnya Young and court officer John Campisi.

Robinson has often been involved in courthouse events over the years and for 17 years has promoted social change through nonviolent means. Judge Connie Mallafre-Melendez shared a story about a time the reverend fought to make sure that the murderer of Chanel Petro Nixon was found and brought to justice by organizing rallies and peaceful demonstrations.

“As time went on and the case got colder, Reverend Robinson fought to keep law enforcement at task and public awareness alive in efforts to find the perpetrator,” the Judge said.

After Young was honored, she shared the story of her first appearance inside the Civil Court when she was 18, how she was scared, but a kind court officer made her feel better. It ended up changing her whole outlook on the court system.

“Oh my God, what am I going to do?” said Young, who has now worked at the court for longer than 30 years. “I didn’t know what I was getting into, I was afraid to come into this courthouse. Soon, I saw not just a uniform, but I saw a person looking to help.

“I can’t fix it for [the litigants] but I can make the experience a little bit better,” she said. “That is our duty as human beings.”

Young carried that lesson with her during her career and has always tried to show compassion to people. The lieutenant stipulated that on many occasions, aggression stems from fear. So by making the environment comfortable for litigants, and being helpful with whatever is needed, helps keep everybody safe in the end.

The final honoree, Campisi, kept his speech very brief as he offered a few thank-yous and talked about what an honor it was to be recognized.

“This was a big surprise,” Campisi said.

The event got a surprise guest as Attorney General Letitia James made a quick appearance. James remarked that she had worked many hours in the court before she rose up the ranks to one of the state’s highest elected positions.

“I am a Brooklynite and there is not much that gets past me in Brooklyn,” James said about hearing about the event. “I’m here to celebrate some friends.”

“As someone who practiced here, I believe it’s really critically important that we recognize those unsung heroes and those individuals who are on the ground and who represent the face and the spirit of justice,” James said.

The Kings County Gender Fairness Committee hosted the event in conjunction with the Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association.

EVERY FRIDAY @ 1:15 PM

WALKING FOR OUR HEARTS

PLEASE JOIN THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE ON A HEALTHLY WALK TO THE BROOKLYN HEIGHTS PROMENADE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND FITNESS IN THE WORKPLACE.

WE WILL MEET IN THE LOBBY

EVERY FRIDAY
TIME: 1:15PM

BEGINNING
OCTOBER 4, 2019

CONTACT :
HON. R. K. SHEARES
EXT. 49097

WEATHER PERMITTING OF COURSE.

KINGS CIVIL COURT
141 LIVINGSTON STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
11201

rsheares@nycourts.gov

Queens County Supreme Court, Civil and
Criminal Terms, Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Marguerite A. Grays and Hon. Marcia Hirsch, Chairs

Queens County Supreme Court Civil and Criminal Terms Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: Hon. Marguerite A. Grays, Deputy Administrative Judge Civil Matters, 11th Judicial District; Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch, Judge of the Court of Claims/Acting Supreme Court Justice, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Members: See attached list.

Counties served: Queens

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: March 14 and September 20

Average Attendance: 12

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

2019 Special Events

Women's History Awareness Month
The film, "RBG", was shown over two successive lunch hours, March 27th & 28th, 2019 at the Queens County Criminal Courthouse in Kew Gardens, NY

"Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany under the Third Reich" held July 10, 2019 during lunch hour at Queens County Supreme Court, Jamaica, NY. "Lunch and Learn - A Breast Cancer Workshop" held Oct. 10, 2019 at Queens County Supreme Court, Jamaica, NY

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email, Mail, and Flyer

Who and how many attended? Between 35 and 40 judges, court attorneys, secretaries, ADA's, court clerks, court officers, court reporters and interpreters attended each event.

Was there any press before or after? No

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020: Meeting to be held mid-March in anticipation of Women's History Month event in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment.

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women’s History Month Program (See above)

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and Breastfeeding Space

Do you see unmet training needs? No

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse?
Employee rights and benefit changes.

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations, The Brandeis Association, Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association and the Queens Women's Bar Association

M E M B E R S

Rosemary Serno
Secretary to Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Frank Consigli, Esq.
Prn. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Diana Megias, Esq.
Assistant District Attorney, Queens County
District Attorney

Delores Haynes
Secretary to Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Hon. Marguerite A. Grays
Deputy Administrative Judge
Civil Matters,
11th Judicial District

Hon. Marcia Hirsch
Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

JoAnn Lopresto
Secretary to Judge, Queens County Supreme Court, Civil Term

Maritza Karagiorgos
Senior Court Analyst, Queens Treatment Court

Peter Manzo
Resource Coordinator, Queens Mental Health Court

Patrick Clayton
Case Manager, Queens Treatment Courts

Nicole McGregor Mundy
Prn. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Iris Guzman
Principal Court Analyst
Queens Criminal Court

Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Administrative Judge, Criminal Term, Queens Supreme Court

Hon. Charles Lopresto
Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Hon. Bernice Siegal
Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Hon. Morgan Lancman
Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Carol Gardner, Esq.
Prin. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Rosemary Chao, Esq.
Prin. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Susan Beberfall, Esq.
Prin. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Samantha McDawal
Associate Court Clerk, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Tiffany Malcolm, Esq.
Law Clerk, Queens Supreme Court Civil Term

Cassandra Johnson
Court Clerk, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Annette Bevans, Esq.
Associate Law Clerk, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Hon. Gia Morris
Judge, Queens Supreme Court Criminal Term

Hon. Lenora Gerald
Judge, Queens Supreme Court Criminal Term

Noliesa Davoli, Esq.
Prin. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

In celebration of Women's History Month

The Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
of the Supreme, Criminal Courts and Civil Court
and
The Queens County Women's Bar Association
Present

RBG

The exceptional life and career of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has developed a breathtaking legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon.

Wednesday, March 27th, & Thursday, March 28th, 2019
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
(two-part screening)
Queens County Criminal Courthouse
125-01 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, New York
Eighth Floor Conference Room

All Are Welcome!

Light Refreshments will be Served.
Please RSVP to: Rosemary Serno rserno@nycourts.gov or (718)298-1435

BRANDEIS ASSOCIATION

A Bar Association of Jewish Legal Professionals

in conjunction with the

American Bar Association

and the

German Federal Bar

present a traveling exhibit to be displayed in the Queens County Supreme Court in Jamaica during the months of July and August:

Lawyers Without Rights:
Jewish Lawyers in Germany under the Third Reich

*****

Join us for a lunch and learn with
Douglas G. Morris , PhD., J.D., legal historian and
attorney with Federal Defenders of New York, Inc. who will address us on his article:
The Law in Nazi Germany:
Ideology, Opportunism, and the Perversion of Justice

Wed. July 10, 2019 - 1:00-2:00 PM
Queens County Supreme Court 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435
A light lunch will be served- Dietary Laws Observed

Free & Open to the Public – Registration Required
Register online at www.brandeisassociation.org

This event is co-sponsored by the Gender Fairness Committees for the Civil and Criminal Terms of the Supreme Court and Queens Criminal Court

Join

Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association,

The Queens County Women's Bar Association and

The Queens County Gender Fairness Committee of the Supreme Court, Criminal Courts and Civil Court

"Lunch & Learn"

A Breast Cancer Workshop

Presented by Eileen Pillitteri,

Maurer Foundation for Breast Health Education

October 10, 2019, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Supreme Court, Queens County
Boardroom
88-11 Sutphin Boulevard
Jamaica, New York
Please RSVP to: turqh@aol.com by October 3, 2019

Knowing it exists is not enough. Get informed. Pass it on!

Coming in 2020

Suffragettes in Corselettes

the evolution of underwear & our 19th amendment

For centuries, women have allowed themselves to be squeezed, twisted, and squished to conform to desired shapes. The history of underwear reveals a lot about women's changing roles in society – how we perceive ourselves, and how we're viewed by others. The 1910s saw an end to the hourglass figure with a tiny waist. Women were finally able to breathe and move more freely. Did the demise of tightlacing help women gain the right to vote in 1920? Underwear matters.

This presentation is hands-on and participatory. Tight corseting exerted 22 pounds of pressure on internal organs – find out what that actually feels like! Experience the difficulty of completing everyday tasks while wearing a corset. Have you ever relay-raced in a hobble skirt?!

Herstory Unsanitized presentations explore the engrossing "taboo" subjects omitted from history. When a vivacious teacher and grounded green witch join forces, they create *Grounded Goodwife*. Velya Jancz-Urban's gregarious personality and Ehris Urban's serene energy enable this mother/daughter duo to connect with audiences. Their delivery is funny and frank. Laugh, grimace, and honor our foremothers' journeys.

Queens Family Court Women in the
Courts/Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Carol A. Stokinger and Hon. Mildred Negron, Chairs

Queens Family Court Women in the Courts Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: Hon. Carol A. Stokinger and Hon. Mildred Negron (Outgoing);
Hon. Elizabeth Fassler (Incoming)

Members: Committee in Formation

Counties served: Queens

2019 Special Events

Other Special Events or Activities
Queens Family Court sponsored a Pink and Teal Seminar to raise awareness about breast and ovarian cancer. See the attached flyer for more information.

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Flyer

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020: To be determined

WHAT DO YOU REALLY KNOW ABOUT BREAST AND OVARIAN CANCER?

Attend a Pink and Teal Seminar!

WHERE:

Queens County Family Court

151-20 Jamaica Avenue

Part 46 - Room 280

WHEN:

Tuesday, May 7th, 1:00 - 2 :00

Bring your lunch

RSVP to:

gtbehan@nycourts.gov

Inspiration Guaranteed!

- Learn about breast and ovarian cancer awareness through the unique perspective of healthy survivors.
- Learn about risks, risk reduction, early detection, doctor-patient communication and much more.
- Become empowered about your health.
- Learn about SHARE, a survivor-led organization dedicated to providing emotional support and information about breast and ovarian cancers through its many free services and programs.
- Ask questions.

More information at www.sharecancersupport.org

Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto and Hon. Karen B. Wolff, Chairs

Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: Hon. Barbara Irolla Panepinto and Hon. Karen B. Wolff

Members: Claire Cody Miller, Esq., Karen Soren, Esq., Rian Silverman, Esq. (Court Attorney to Hon. Karen B. Wolff), Hon. Alison Hamanjian, Hon. Helene D. Sacco (Supervising Judge Richmond County Family Court)

Counties served: Richmond

2019 Meetings

Meeting Dates: 2/28, 4/8, 10/7, and via e-mail
Average attendance: 5
Do you use Videoconferencing? No

2019 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Human Trafficking Workshop with Comic Book Author Thomas Estler and Saving Jane at Curtis High School

Other Special Events or Activities
Co-sponsored Breast Cancer Awareness Month program at the Richmond County Supreme Courthouse. The speaker was Dr. Tihesha Wilson, M.D., Chief of Breast Surgery, Richmond County Medical Center

On June 26, in honor of Pride Month, we co-sponsored a program presented by the Hon. Matthew J. Titone, "Braschi v Stahl Assocs. Co: 30 Years Later."

How were your special events advertised or marketed?
Email, Flyer, and High School program was advertised by faculty of Law Program.

Who and how many attended?
Approximately 30 teens attended the high school program and approximately 75 attorneys & court staff attended the Breast Cancer Awareness Program. Approximately 125 attorneys, court staff and members of the public attended the Pride Event.

Was there any press before or after? No

Future Plans

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2020:
Next meeting: February 25

Special Events & Educational Programs
On January 9, 2020, for Human Trafficking Prevention Month, comic book writer Thomas Estler, author of the Abolitionista! series, and Saving Jane came to New Dorp H.S. and conducted workshops during the morning reaching over 60 students.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2020? Supervised visitation services, assigned counsel in matrimonial matters, stress reduction and wellness.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and Supervised Visitation

Do you see unmet training needs? No

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? Stress management, health and wellness, career opportunities for women in the law

Areas of success during 2019 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:
As stated, we have a strong partnership with Curtis H.S. and New Dorp High School. Our programs concerning Human Trafficking, how to recognize unsafe relationships, and how to seek help were very well received by the students and faculty. In October, Dr. Wilson's slide show presentation on breast cancer, diagnosis, treatment, reconstructive surgery options were enthusiastically received by attendees who filled the Courtroom. The Pride Month Event was a huge success and we were proud to be a part of the program.

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Richmond County Bar Assoc, SIWBA, Saving Jane, Curtis H.S. Law Program, New Dorp H.S. Law Program, Richmond University Medical Center, The Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission, the Richmond County Supreme Court

Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee, The Staten Island Women's Bar Association *&:*

SAVING JANE

present:

Thomas Estler, Author

Featuring work from his comic book series: "Abolitionista!"

Monday April 15, 2019, 5PM - 7:30 PM
Curtis High School
105 Hamilton Avenue, Staten Island NY 10301

Sponsored by: Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee &
Staten Island Women's Bar Association

In celebration of PRIDE Month

RICHMOND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

In Conjunction with

RICHMOND COUNTY SUPREME COURT

THE RICHARD C. FAILLA LGBTQ COMMISSION

STATEN ISLAND GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

Present

Surrogate Matthew J. Titone

Braschi v Stahl Assocs. Co.: 30 Years Later

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

1pm

Richmond County Supreme Court

Central Jury Room, Lobby

26 Central Avenue

Staten Island, NY 10301

All are invited and encouraged to attend. Lunch will be served!

Hon. Desmond A. Green, Administrative Judge

Jay Duskin, President, RCBA
Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto, S.I. Gender Fairness Committee
Hon. Karen B. Wolff, S.I. Gender Fairness Committee

JUDGES & LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT

And The

SIWBA

STATEN ISLAND WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Linking Women Attorneys Throughout Staten Island and Beyond

And The

NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts
And The **Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee**
cordially invite you to their

ANNUAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH BREAKFAST

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

9:15 A.M.
Supreme Court House
18 Richmond Terrace

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Tihesha Wilson, M.D.
Chief of Breast Surgery
Richmond University Medical Center

Come Join Us and Show <u>Your</u> Support!!!