

# ANNUAL REPORTS

Local Gender Bias and  
Gender Fairness Committees

2006-2007

Annual Reports of  
Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

2006-2007

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee Report

Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts Report

Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts Report

Sixth Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee Report

Seventh Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee Report

Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee Report

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

Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts Report

Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee Report

Gender Fairness Committee of the Criminal Court of the  
City of New York Report

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

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

Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District Report

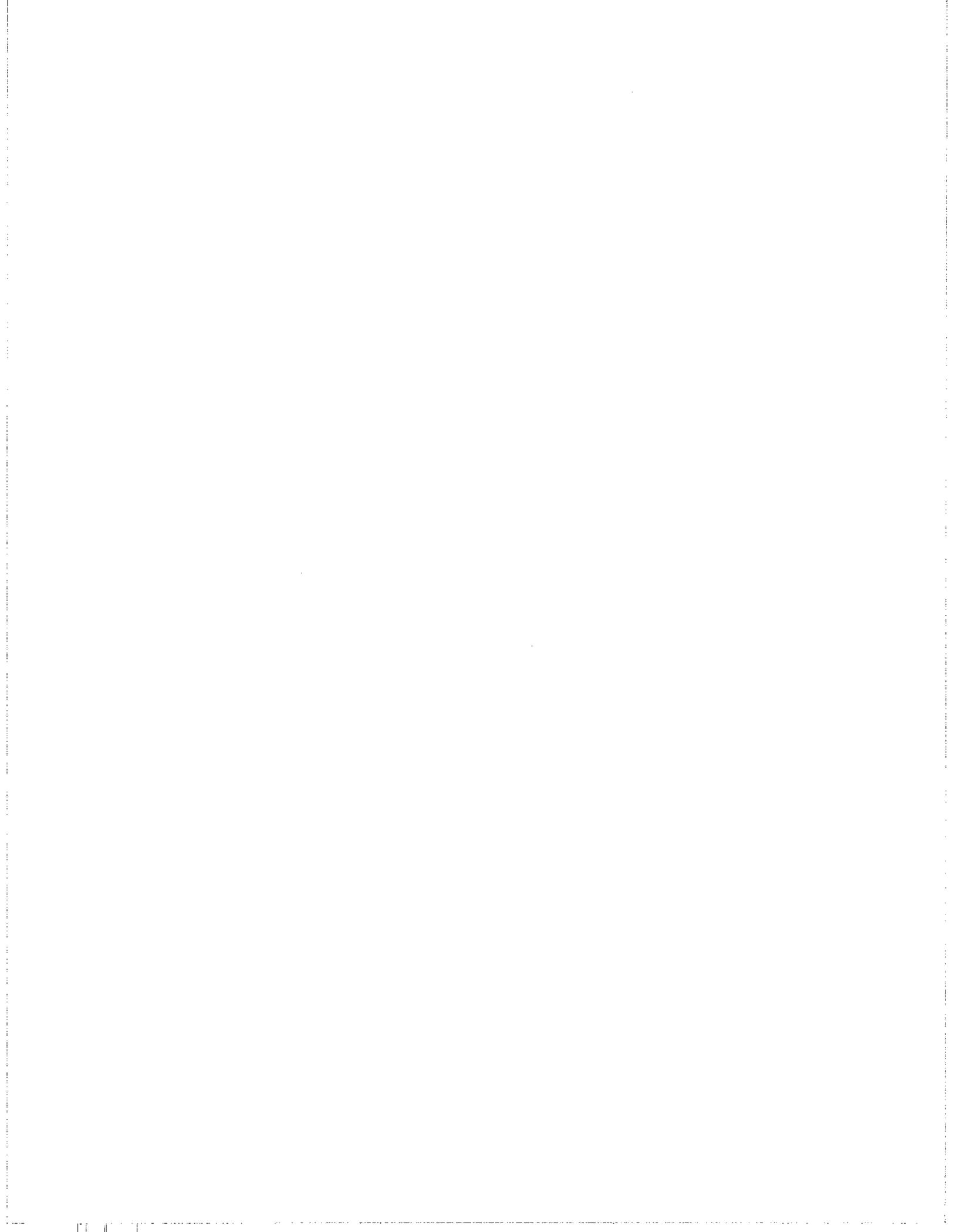
Queens County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee Report

Brooklyn Gender Fairness Committee Report



*Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Linda C. Griffin**  
Rensselaer Family Court  
1504 Fifth Ave.  
Troy, NY 12180  
518-270-3761



## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

**Name of the Committee:** Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

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

Hon. Linda C. Griffin, Rensselaer County Family Court Center 1504 Fifth Avenue, Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 270-3761 ext 342; fax: (518) 272-6573; [lgriffin@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:lgriffin@courts.state.ny.us)

**No. Members:** 33 **No. of Meetings:** 3 **Average Attendance:** 10-12 **Use of Video Conferencing?** No  
(attempted once)

**Composition of the Committee :** Judges & Support magistrates: 9 Court personnel: 13 Attorneys: 10  
Advocates: 1

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

**Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006:**

**Activities for Women's History Month 2006 or planned for 2007:**

On March 30, 2007 our Committee is co-sponsoring, together with the Rensselaer County Bar Association and the Capital District Women's Bar Association legal Project, Inc. a presentation (with CLE credit) by Kathryn Ford, LMSC of the Center for Court Innovation entitled "Critical Issues in Responding to Domestic Violence: Best Practices for Attorneys and Service Providers: Child's Exposure to Domestic Violence

**Other Activities in the Past Year:**

Our May meeting featured two guest speakers, one of whom was as member of the Matrimonial Commission, to discuss the work and recommendations of the Commission. We held this meeting at the Greene County Courthouse, not our usual venue, and invited Judges, attorneys and court staff to attend.

**Plans for Next Year:** Based on the early positive response to the announcement of our March presentation (above), I anticipate we will seek out additional opportunities for future "joint ventures" with other organizations.

**What are your committee's most important strengths?**

A core of dedicated members who regularly attend and participate at meetings; strong support from our District Administrative Judge and his staff; good geographic diversity on the Committee.

**What are your committee's biggest impediments?**

Our Committee comes from a very large geographic area. The concerns of the northern, more urban counties are not always the same issues facing other areas of the District. We deal with a wide range

of service providers. Attendance at meetings and programs is difficult because of the size of the District and the travel time involved.

**What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?**

People like to work on concrete projects, not just attend endless meetings !

**What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?**

**What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?**

I would like to see our committee coordinate a joint meeting/event with another committee. There has been some casual conversation concerning this idea, but nothing concrete has been discussed to date.

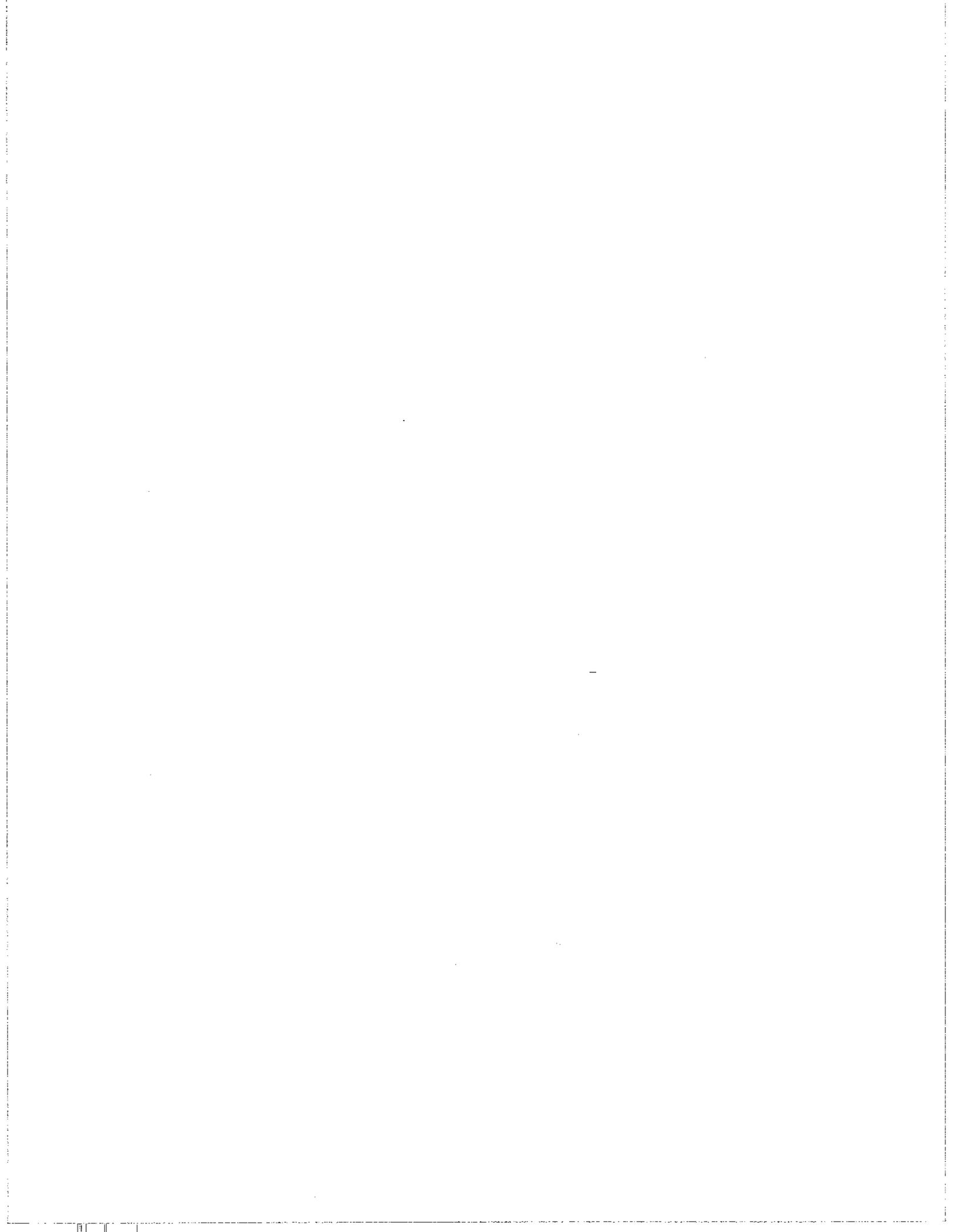
---

Please return this form by **March 7, 2007**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878, New York, NY 10004  
212-428-2793 (Fax) [jgoodman@Courts.state.ny.us](mailto:jgoodman@Courts.state.ny.us)

*Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts*

**Hon. Polly A. Hoyer**  
Fulton County Office Building  
Room 216  
223 West Main Street  
Johnstown, NY 12095  
518-736-5691



## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

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

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

Polly A. Hoyer, Fulton County Judge & Surrogate

223 W. Main St., Johnstown, NY 12095

(518) 736-5691 [phone]; (518) 762-6372 [fax]; email: [phoyer@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:phoyer@courts.state.ny.us)

**No. Members** 20; **No. of Meetings** 0; **Average Attendance** N/A; **Use of Video Conferencing?** No

**Composition of the Committee:** 13 Judges, 2 Court Attorneys, 5 Attorneys at large.

### Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006

Essex County: Day of Remembrance, sponsored by Essex County Task Force Against Domestic Violence; October 3, 2006 (see attached materials)

Franklin County: Take Back the Night Rally, October 23, 2006, Saranac Lake, NY

Hamilton County: Throughout the month of October 2006, the Hamilton County Dept. of Social Services targeted different groups in the community and provided them with information about domestic violence, the local program and services available.

Montgomery County: Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Ceremony; DVAM Collaboration Award Breakfast; Mock Trial held at Fulton-Montgomery Community College; Purple Ribbon Campaign; Clothesline Project (display of T-shirts decorated by survivors of abuse).

Fulton County: The Mayfield High School Key Club and the Fulton County YWCA collaborated to present numerous activities October 15-21, 2006, including "The Yellow Dress", a dramatic one-woman play about dating violence, presented October 20, 2006; a martial arts self-defense class workshop for girls; a discussion by law enforcement officials on domestic and dating violence and a presentation on healthy relationships. (see attached materials).

October 4, 2006: "How to Stay Safe at Home", domestic violence presentation for youth, and Gloversville Clothesline Project, t-shirt decorating with domestic violence theme; both events sponsored by the Fulton County YWCA and the Family Counseling Center's Domestic Violence Project.

Fulton/Montgomery

Counties, combined: Mock trial (date rape), held at Fulton-Montgomery Community College on October 12-13, 2006, sponsored by Fulton and Montgomery Counties' domestic violence service providers.

Fulton/Montgomery/  
Schenectady Counties  
(combined):

"Matrimonial Proceedings Involving Domestic Violence", a one day CLE seminar for attorneys and advocates, held on October 27, 2006 in Fonda, NY, including presentations by 5 Superior Court Judges who preside over matrimonial cases; sponsored by the Rural Law Center of New York, the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York and the bar associations of all 3 counties (see attached flyer).

Saratoga County:

Presentation on DV services and outreach to students and parents at the Edinburgh Elementary School, October 19, 2006, by the Family Counseling Center.

St. Lawrence County:

Annual Recognition Dinner, "Putting Victims First", October 18, 2006 in Canton, NY; Take Back the Night march, October 30, 2006, Canton, NY.

Schenectady County:

The Schenectady YWCA ran several trainings during the month of October, 2006 related to domestic violence dynamics, services for and needs of victims, and the effects of domestic violence on children.

Warren/Washington  
Counties:

"Domestic Violence, Child Custody & Family Court", a one day conference sponsored by the Domestic Violence Community Coordination Council and the Adirondack Women's Bar Association, held on November 3, 2006 in Lake George, NY (see attached materials).

#### **Activities for Women's History Month 2006 or planned for 2007**

Fulton/Montgomery Counties:

March 2006: First Annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium (reported at the 2006 annual meeting), held at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium continues to plan events in the community to recognize the advances that women have made and to explore ways to further promote their greater participation in leadership roles and gender equity. Plans are underway to conduct a workshop in Spring of 2007 for women interested in seeking public office.

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

District-wide:

"Judges on the Front Line: Assessing Risks and Remedies in Domestic Violence Cases, training for judges sponsored by the Family Violence Task Force, May 6, 2006, Saratoga Springs, NY.

Schenectady County:

The Schenectady YWCA provided/ sponsored the following programs: 1) basic domestic violence training to assistant district attorneys and other law enforcement personnel, February 1, 2006; 2) "Everything DV Service Providers Ever Wanted to Know About Alcohol/Substance Abuse & Domestic Violence, April 11, 2006; 3) Rape Crisis Training Workshop, April 25, 2006; "Keep Your Hat On" (boundary awareness training), May 9, 2006

Schenectady, cont.:

Girls' Safety Forum, sponsored by the Working Group on Girls, Schenectady, NY (see attached news article).

Montgomery County: Wellness Day, Dating Violence, presentation to Amsterdam High School students and staff on March 17, 2006 by Fulton and Montgomery Counties' domestic violence service providers.

The Montgomery County Domestic Violence Task Force held monthly meetings and sent out semi-annual newsletters.

Fulton/Montgomery Counties, combined: "In Her Shoes", role-playing simulation for students and staff, highlighting difficult choices faced by DV victims, presented at Fulton-Montgomery Community College on April 5-6, 2006 by Fulton County Domestic Violence program, the Montgomery County Domestic Violence program and the Montgomery County Sexual Assault Support Services (see attached news article).

"Sister to Sister" Summit, sponsored by the American Association of University Women of Amsterdam, Gloversville and Johnstown, held at Fulton-Montgomery Community College on May 15, 2006. This event was attended by more than 200 girls from school districts in 3 counties (see attached news article).

Fulton County: Domestic Violence Task Force quarterly meetings; agendas attached.

Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties, combined: The Adirondack Women's Bar Association sponsored numerous programs aimed at both providing training and support for women attorneys in the area and helping the community, particularly women and low income people. Programs included: 1) Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, October 1, 2006, Fort Edward, NY; 2) sending out emails and newsletters to members about topics such as "Cashing in on Part-Time", how to balance a career with one's personal life; 3) Co-sponsoring seminars on domestic violence; "Establishing a Successful Legal Clinic", a CLE presentation held October 23, 2006 in Glens Falls, NY.

Saratoga County: Mother-Daughter Workshop (aimed at helping mothers and their daughters bond) sponsored by Girls Inc of the Greater Capital Region, held on February 10, 2007 in Ballston Spa, NY (see attached news article).

Free Legal Clinic sponsored by the Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project, May 2006 in Mechanicville, NY.

St. Lawrence County: "The Batterer as Parent", Community Education Day, a workshop conducted in conjunction with National Crime Victims' Week, hosted by Renewal House and the Offender Accountability Advisory Team on April 27, 2006 in Canton, NY (see attached article from Renewal House newsletter).

Essex County: "On the Outside Looking In, The Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence", free training for law enforcement and advocates held on May 4, 2006 in Lake Placid, NY.

: "Justice & Legal Investigation", a multi-agency presentation for law enforcement held November 3, 2006 in Lake Placid, NY (see attached flyer).

**Plans for next Year:** The committee has been in transition and needs to restructure its membership to make active participation and cooperation as a committee more possible. We will need to rely on video-conferences to meet, because of the size of the district.

**What are your committee's most important strengths?** We have judges in our district and other professionals who truly care about gender equity and other issues affecting women in the Courts. Our committee is very diverse and covers a region with many similar characteristics (largely rural). We are fortunate to be served by remarkable domestic violence service and advocacy agencies scattered throughout the region; We have two very active women's bar associations that sponsor many programs and provide essential services to women in the area.

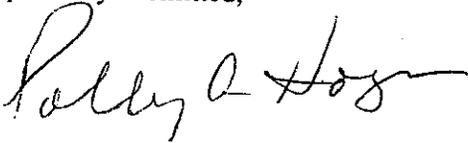
**What are your committee's biggest impediments?** Our district is the largest geographically in the state and it is impossible to meet face-to-face, and awkward to meet by video-conference. I have not found the time to dedicate to this committee the attention it deserves, and unfortunately, my former co-chair, Karen Partyka, had to resign due to illness last year (she subsequently passed away). There are members of the committee who no longer have the time to participate. They should be replaced with members who have the ability and interest to participate more fully.

**What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?** It's important to have active members. I think it would be good to have committee members serve for a set term, so they would either be asked to stay on for a new term (if interested and active) or replaced at the end of their term by a new member.

**What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?** It was great to have the annual meeting in Albany last year, and really boosted enthusiasm for us northern members to have Judge Kaye and Judge Ellerin here, together with the other speakers. Perhaps another conference statewide but held in the Capital District or a video-conference with Judges Kaye and/or Ellerin emphasizing the importance of the committee's focus.

**What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?** Perhaps a regional meeting between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts with a couple of good speakers or workshops would generate a lot of ideas and interest. It could be held in Albany, Schenectady or Saratoga Springs.

Respectfully submitted,



Polly A. Hoyer  
4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Committee Chairperson

*Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts*

**Hon. Deborah Karalunas**  
Supreme Court Justice  
Onondaga County Court  
333 East Washington Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
315-428-3244



## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

Name of the Committee - Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Name, Address, Telephone and Fax Number and E-mail Address of the Chair - Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Supreme Court Justice, Onondaga County Courthouse, Room 401, Syracuse, New York 13202.

No. Members 21 . No. of Meetings 1 . Average Attendance 11. Use of Video Conferencing?  
N/A

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc .) 3 Judges, 4 Confidential Law Assistants 1 Support Magistrate 1 Law School Dean and 12 attorneys.

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006 - None.

Activities for Women's History Month 2006 or planned for 2007 - None.

Other Activities in the Past Year - Investigation of one complaint.

Plans for Next Year:

- 1) Compile statistics regarding gender distribution of judges, court employees, fiduciary appointments and counsel assignments;
- 2) Compose survey to determine what gender related issues exist in the district;
- 3) Determine what training exists for judges and court employees and encourage such training to increase in frequency;
- 4) Organize an event recognizing the contribution of local women attorneys and court employees;
- 5) Increase awareness of the existence of our committee through channels such as Take 5 employee newsletter, posters, general press release and bar association reports and newsletters;
- 6) Update Fifth Judicial District website to include information about the committee and to provide access to a complaint form.

What are your committee's most important strengths? - Diversity of perspective and frank communication.

What is your committee's biggest impediment? - Size of the district

What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?

Jill Goodman and Judge Ellerin are responsive, knowledgeable resources.

What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

- 1) An organizational chart setting forth the interrelationship between our committee and state level departments such as the Office of Inspector General;
- 2) Definition of the committee's role in addressing gender bias complaints;
- 3) Sample surveys;
- 4) Gender fairness training.

What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender/bias gender fairness committees? - Sample surveys.

*Sixth Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann**

Binghamton City Court

Governmental Plaza

38 Hawley Street

Binghamton, NY 13901

607-772-7006

**Hon. Christopher Esworthy**

Commissioner of Jurors

P.O. Box 1706

Courthouse

Binghamton, NY 13902

607-778-2159



MARY ANNE LEHMANN  
WILLIAM C. PELELLA  
ROBERT C. MURPHY  
CITY COURT JUDGES



CATHERINE R. MALONEY  
CHIEF CLERK  
SHERRY L. BAKER  
DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK

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

December 18, 2006

Honorable Betty Weinberg-Ellerin, Chair  
Jill L. Goodman, Counsel  
New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, New York 10004

Dear Judge Ellerin and Counsel Goodman:

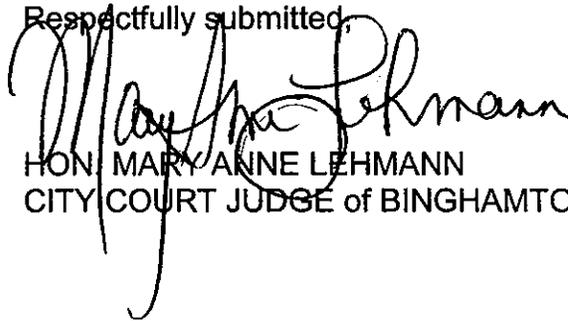
I am proud to report that the Sixth Judicial District had an extraordinary year for "Domestic Violence Awareness Month." Enclosed please find copies of the various articles and programs that appeared. They are listed in no particular order.

- The Center for Court Innovation and the City of Binghamton Domestic Violence Court presented a workshop called "Special Issues and Responding to Domestic Violence" held Thursday, October 12, 2006 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with an expert from The Center for Court Innovation, Kathryn Ford, the Statewide Children's Issues Coordinator for that agency and a panel discussion by local experts. A copy of the agenda is enclosed.
- On Friday, October 27, 2006 the Broome County Family Court held an open house to spotlight the Integrated Domestic Violence Court and to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. That was held from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Broome and Family Courthouse Building. A copy of that agenda is attached.
- The Bar Association of Broome County ran in its' newsletter articles regarding October being Domestic Awareness Month. A copy of that is attached.
- The Family Violence Task Force sent out memoranda soliciting suggestions for future programs on October 3, 2006 throughout the Sixth Judicial District. A copy of that is attached.

- In a regional newspaper under the heading "October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month" ran articles "What Does It Mean To Be A Man" and advertisements sponsored by the Family Violence Prevention Fund copies of which are enclosed.
- The Broome County Magistrate's meeting on October 4, 2006 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. dealt with the Department of Criminal Justice Services website on Domestic Violence. How to access the same. A copy of that agenda and handout is attached.
- On October 6, 2006 the SOS Shelter, the safe house for woman suffering from violence sponsored a breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at the Binghamton Club, remarks were delivered by Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo from the New York State Legislature and the undersigned.
- On October 18, 2006 the YWCA sponsored its' eleventh annual policy breakfast entitled "Would You Recognize a Victim of Domestic Violence". This began the week without violence program sponsored by the YWCA, SOS Shelter, Family and Children's Society, Binghamton City Domestic Violence Court. A copy of their agendas, handouts, newsletter articles are attached.
- On September 27 and 28, 2006 two judges from the Sixth Judicial District participated in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court legal training at the Adam Marks Hotel in Buffalo, New York, that being the Honorable John C. Rowley, presiding judge of the Tompkins County Integrated Domestic Violence Court. He spoke on custody and visitation issues and the undersigned spoke on Firearms and Criminal Orders of Protection. A copy of the agenda is enclosed.
- A contingent from the Sixth Judicial District including the Administrative Judge Judith F. O'Shea, Honorable John Rowley, the Integrated Domestic Violence Court of Tompkins County, Honorable Peter Charnetsky, the Integrated Domestic Violence Court of Broome County and the undersigned, the presiding judge of the Domestic Violence Court in the City of Binghamton all attended the Decade of Achievement for Domestic Violence Court celebration in Brooklyn, New York on September 20, 2006. A copy of the agenda and handouts is enclosed.
- The Sixth Judicial District website sponsored an approximately fifty page handout entitled "October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month" subtitled "Domestic Violence Findings, Safety and Support". A copy of that website program is enclosed.

The Sixth Judicial District continues to grow in terms of it's programs and recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and continues to take positive steps to eradicate the problem. We in this district are very proud of our accomplishments this year and wish to thank the committee and particularly Judge Ellerin for your leadership in this regard. We also would like to recognize Judge Judith O'Shea whose leadership has also helped to make these programs possible.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Anne Lehmann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

HON. MARY ANNE LEHMANN  
CITY COURT JUDGE of BINGHAMTON

MAL:cq

Enc.

cc: Honorable Judith F. O'Shea



# THE CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION & CITY OF BINGHAMTON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

Present

## Special Issues in Responding to Domestic Violence

A Training Workshop

Thursday, October 12, 2006

1 PM to 4 PM

State Office Building, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Continuing Legal Education AGENDA:

I. Children's exposure to domestic violence

Kathryn Ford, L.M.S.W.  
Statewide Children's Issues Coordinator

II. Panel discussion on coordinated community response to domestic violence in Binghamton

Gerald F. Mollen, Esq.  
Broome County District Attorney

Jay L. Wilbur, Esq.  
Broome County Public Defender

Pat Ericksen  
Ex-Director, SOS Shelter

P.J. Dailey  
Family & Children's Men Overcoming Violence

Joseph Zikuski, Asst. Chief  
City of Binghamton Police Dept.

Steve Cwikla, Coordinator  
City of Binghamton Domestic Violence Court

Moderator: Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann  
City of Binghamton Domestic Violence Court

III. Sexual abuse in intimate relationships

IV. Question & answer/discussion period

Presentation by:  
Kathryn Ford, L.M.S.W.  
Statewide Children's Issues Coordinator  
520 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10018  
(212) 373-1692  
[Kford@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:Kford@courts.state.ny.us)

The Center for Court Innovation is an accredited Continuing Legal Education provider.



Thursday, October 12, 2006  
1 PM to 4 PM  
State Office Building, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor

1:00 Welcome and Introductions  
Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann,  
Presiding Judge Binghamton City Court, Domestic Violence Court

Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence  
Kathryn Ford, L.M.S.W.  
Center for Court Innovation  
Statewide Children's Issues Coordinator  
520 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
(212) 373-1692  
[kford@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:kford@courts.state.ny.us)

2:10 Panel Discussion as moderated by Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann

Panelists:

- Gerald Mollen, Broome County District Attorney
- Jay Wilbur, Public Defender of Broome County
- Joe Zikuski, Assistant Chief Binghamton Police Department
- Pat Ericksen, Executive Director SOS Shelter Inc.
- P.J. Daley, Supervisor Domestic Violence Programs, Family and Children's Society
- Steve Cwikla, Resource Coordinator Binghamton City Court Domestic Violence Court

BREAK

3:15 Sexual Abuse in intimate relationships  
Kathryn Ford, L.M.S.W.  
Center for Court Innovation

Questions and Answers  
Evaluation



## FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Court Innovation is a non-profit think tank that helps courts and criminal justice agencies aid victims, reduce crime, and improve public trust in justice, through development and support of projects including mental health, domestic violence, and drug treatment courts.

The Center's Domestic Violence Department is pleased to announce two training programs for local stakeholders that can be hosted by your court.

### Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence

This training will familiarize participants with the impact of domestic violence on children and provide concrete suggestions for how to best support children through individual and agency practice. Topics will include: dynamics and effects of children's exposure to domestic violence, visitation and custody issues, the role of the child welfare system, the impact of family violence on parenting, mental health and therapeutic interventions with children, intervention by domestic violence advocates and agencies, and best practices for the courts, law enforcement and legal providers.

### Sexual Abuse in Intimate Relationships

Intimate partner sexual violence is often misunderstood or overshadowed by physical abuse, and responding to cases involving both domestic violence and sexual assault can be confusing and difficult. In order to address these concerns, this training covers topics that include: the prevalence and dynamics of sexual abuse in intimate relationships, its overlap with other forms of abuse, barriers to disclosure and intervention, and similarities and differences between assaults perpetrated by intimate partners and those committed by other types of offenders. In addition, screening and assessment, working with survivors, and best practices for the legal and social service systems are addressed.

Both trainings can be tailored to the needs of your agency or community, and are appropriate for the following types of participants:

- Judges
- Prosecutors & defense attorneys
- Domestic violence agencies
- Rape crisis programs
- Mental health clinicians
- Supervised visitation providers
- Batterers' intervention programs
- Child protective services
- Health care providers
- Law enforcement personnel

CLE credit is available upon request. Please contact Kathryn Ford, Domestic Violence Program Associate, at (212)373-1692 or [kford@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:kford@courts.state.ny.us) for more information.

In recognition of the recent opening of the  
Broome County Integrated Domestic Violence Court  
and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month,  
you are cordially invited to join the staff of the  
Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court for a reception

Friday, October 27, 2006  
from 5:00 -6:30 pm  
Broome County and Family Court Building  
3rd Floor  
65 Hawley Street  
Binghamton, New York

IDV Court will be in session from 3- 4:30pm on that day for those who wish  
to observe the Court activities

Refreshments will be served

Please RSVP Tracy Ligouri by Friday, October 20, 2006, at:

E-mail [tligouri@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:tligouri@courts.state.ny.us) (Preferred)  
Telephone 607 778-2448

## BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT

*Continued from Page 3*

continue the stay beyond thirty days, the debtor must seek and be granted a motion to extend within the thirty day period. Debtors filing a third case within one year have no automatic stay and the Court is given no authority to grant one.

**Domestic Support Obligations:** The amendments have greatly increased the protection of those creditors owed alimony, child support or other obligations arising out of divorces, separations or court orders. They are now presumed non-dischargeable and the debtor must seek a determination of dischargeability.

In general, the many adjustments were made to provide greater protection to the recipients of domestic support obligations. One major example, other than the nondischargeability is the fact that no stay will be granted in Chapter 13 proceedings for arrears or enforcement options for DSOs.

**Student Loans:** The non-dischargeability for student loans has now been expanded to include student loans granted by non-government agencies or otherwise not guaranteed by a government agency, in effect making all student loans non-dischargeable except under the hardship rules.

**Landlord/Tenant:** No automatic stay applies if an eviction judgment was granted prior to filing. In those cases where an eviction proceeding is pending at the time of filing debtor must file a certification to impose the stay and must pay the arrears within thirty days of filing in order to continue to stay beyond the thirty days.

**Reaffirmation:** The debtors are now required to perform their stated intent or the automatic stay will be lifted. The so-called "informal reaffirmation" where the debtor simply continues making payments is no longer an option. It is unclear whether secured creditors, such as car loan companies, will in fact repossess cars where the debtors have not complied with the requirement to reaffirm in writing.

**Chapter 13 Reorganization:** Numerous technical changes have been made in how Chapter 13 plans may be structured and which debts are dischargeable. Several examples are: A plan cannot be confirmed unless the debtor is current on his domestic support obligations "Step-up" plans are now unlikely as secured creditors must receive even, equal payments throughout the length of the bankruptcy plan Post petition payments to secured creditors, including car loans, must be made to the creditor within thirty days of the filing.

**Closing Comments:** In general, the amendments were written not only to discourage filings, but also to provide more oversight of the process. As a result, the US Trustee's Office has promised to perform more audits. Much more documentation needs to be provided to the Trustees in both liquidations and reorganizations. The overall effect has been to make bankruptcies more expensive, more time consuming and difficult.

It is too early to tell whether the statute will have the intended effect or whether in the long term filings will reach the levels seen prior to the enactment of the amendments.

## Committee Calendar

**MUNICIPAL LAW COMMITTEE LUNCHEON  
OCTOBER 11, 2006**

**Noon – 2:00 pm**

**18<sup>th</sup> Floor – State Office Building**

**Guest Speaker – Robert Freeman, Executive Director  
of NYS Committee on Open Government**

**Topic: Recent decisions and changes on FOIL  
and Open Meetings Law**

**CLE CREDIT AVAILABLE**

**YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE**

**Informal Gathering – Uncle Tony's on the Patio**

**FRIDAY – OCTOBER 13, 2006**

**5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

**JOIN US TO PLAN**

**THE COMING YEAR'S EVENTS**

*No Reservation Necessary!*

**FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 10, 2006 – 8:00 am**

**Broome County Family Court**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, members of the Bar are invited to join us on Friday, October 27, 2006 from 5:00-6:30 PM for a reception to formally announce the opening of the Broome County Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court. The reception will be held in the lobby on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Broome County and Family Court Building.

Presiding Supreme Court Justice Peter P. Charnetsky, IDV Court staff and others will briefly discuss the court's functions. Local victim service providers the SOS Shelter and Crime Victims Assistance Center will have informational displays about Domestic Violence and be available to answer questions. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

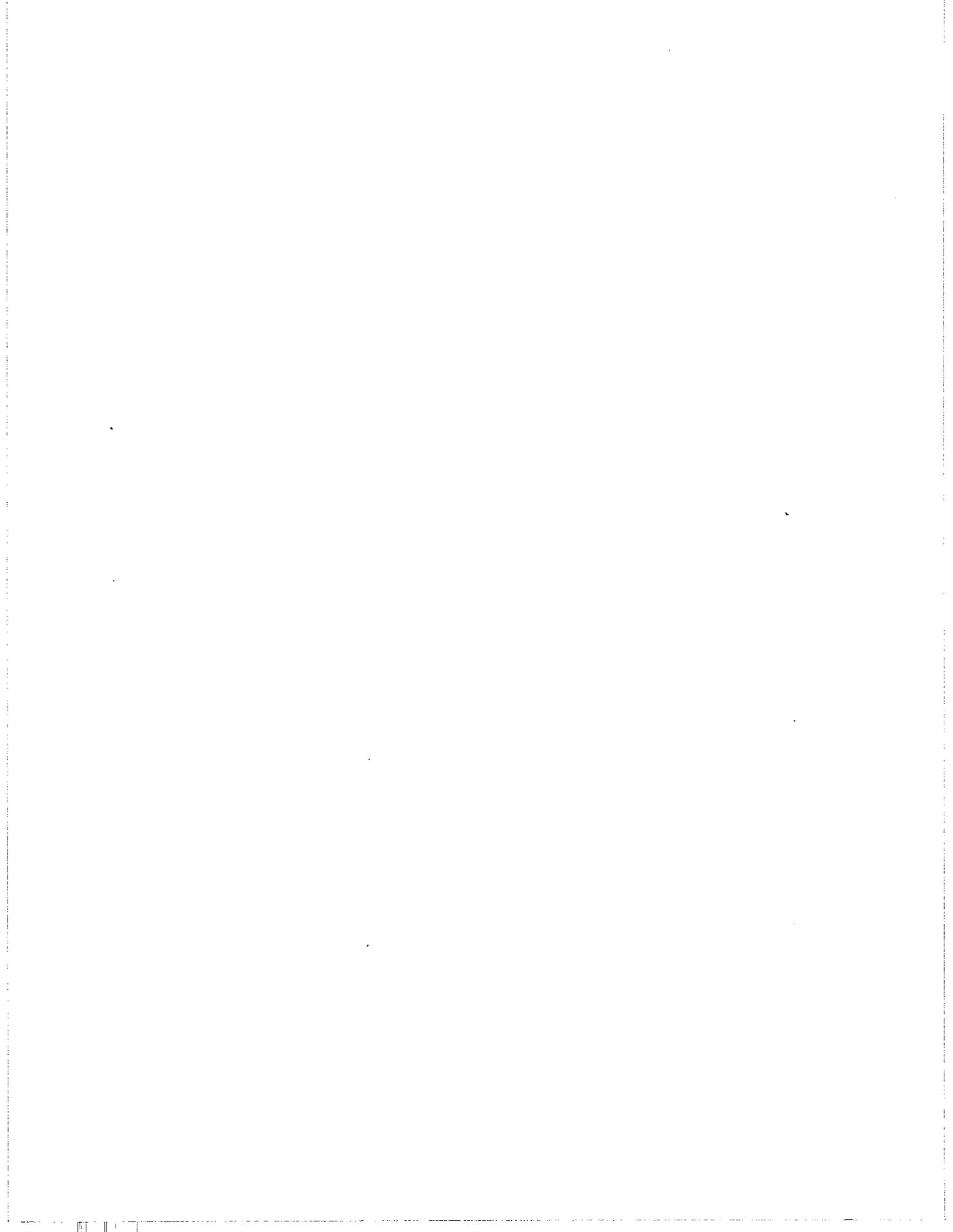
Broome County IDV Court also hosts an ongoing series of lunch time seminars open to all interested members of the Bar. The seminars have covered topics such as domestic violence victim services, batterer intervention programs and services available through the Department of Social Services. On Friday, November 3 from 12-1, the topic will be Probation Practices and Procedures.

To join our mailing list, or for questions or concerns, please contact Tracy Ligouri, IDV Court Coordinator, at [tligouri@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:tligouri@courts.state.ny.us) or at 778-2448.



*Seventh Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Teresa Johnson**  
Rochester City Court  
Hall of Justice  
99 Exchange Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14614-2187  
585-429-1904



## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

### Name of the Committee

Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

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

Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Supervising Judge, Rochester City Court  
99 Exchange Blvd., Room 6, Rochester, New York, 14614  
585-428-2096, TJohnson@courts.state.ny.us

No. Members 23 No. of Meetings 5 Average Attendance 9 Use of Video Conferencing? No

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

Our committee is comprised of judges, court clerks and administrators, hearing examiners, practicing attorneys, attorneys from our District Attorney and Public Defender offices, the president of the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys and the director of the local battered woman's shelter.

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

### Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006

We presented a Domestic Violence Awareness Month program with three speakers. Lorien Castelle from the New York State Coalition against Domestic Violence spoke on Language Usage and Fairness. Kathryn Ford from the Center for Court Innovation presented on Sexual Abuse In Intimate Relationships and Robert Passonno from the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence presented on Who Is The Primary Aggressor?

The program was scheduled for a full afternoon and continuing legal education credit was available. There were no co-sponsors, but the Monroe County Bar Association allowed us to use it's conference room because the number of attendees exceeded the space available in the courthouse. We had 61 attendees, the largest ever for any program presented by our Committee. All of the feedback was very positive.

### Activities for Women's History Month 2006 or planned for 2007

We have a program planned for March 20, 2007 entitled "What Was It Really Like For Women Pioneers In The Judicial System?". Our panelists include Joan de R. O'Byrne, a practicing attorney since 1969, Hon. Joan S. Kohout, the first female attorney in the Monroe County Public Defender's Office and Sharon Rivaldo, a retired sheriff's deputy who began working in court security in 1982. The program will also include a slide presentation and display of the early involvement of women in the judicial system.

### Other Activities in the Past Year

Our Committee completed informational brochures, printed in both English and in Spanish, on how child support and child custody decisions are made. They have been placed in various clerks' offices for distribution to the public.

In February 2007 Jill Laurie Goodman met with our Committee members for a special planning and brainstorming session. She shared ideas and strengths from other committees and helped in our continuing planning process for the future.

**Plans for Next Year:**

We plan to continue with our programs for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Women's History Month. In addition, we plan to help initiate and present a new round of training and educational programs for Seventh Judicial District staff on issues of gender fairness and sexual harassment. We are also working on ways to bring awareness of the Committee's existence to non-staff court users so that we can make sure any gender fairness issues they may have are addressed.

**What are your committee's most important strengths?**

We have a solid core of professionals on our Committee who care deeply about gender fairness issues. Some of them have been involved with the Committee since its inception.

**What are your committee's biggest impediments?**

Our biggest impediment is the large geographical area that the Seventh Judicial District encompasses. It makes it difficult for all of the Committee members to participate fully and difficult to make all of the programs available district-wide. We might try video conferencing in the future.

**What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?**

This is my first year both on the Committee and as Chair. I have learned to take advantage of the institutional memory of the Committee and also the importance of bringing fresh ideas and encouraging a new outlook.

**What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?**

Jill Laurie Goodman has been very helpful. The continued ability to reach out to the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts for guidance and assistance when planning programs will be helpful.

**What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?**

I plan to talk to other gender bias/gender fairness committee chairs as we seek to develop new programs, to learn from their experiences. Their willingness to respond when asked will be helpful. I would also be interested in attending programs offered by the other committees, when possible. This would require us to share with each other program announcements as they are current.

Please return this form by **March 7, 2007**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878, New York, NY 10004  
212-428-2793 (Fax) [Jgoodman@Courts.state.ny.us](mailto:Jgoodman@Courts.state.ny.us)

**THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

**PRESENTS**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROGRAM**

**LANGUAGE USAGE AND FAIRNESS**

**Lorien Castelle**

**New York State Coalition against Domestic Violence**

**Sexual Abuse in Intimate Relationships**

**Kathryn Ford**

**Center for Court Innovation**

**Who Is the Primary Aggressor?**

**Robert Passano**

**New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**

**HALL OF JUSTICE**

**Room 165**

**OCTOBER 26, 2006**

**12:00 TO 4:30**

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH**

**SNACKS & BEVERAGES PROVIDED**

**Please confirm your attendance with**

**Hon. Teresa D. Johnson,  
Chair**

**At 428-2096 Or**

**Carey Travis at 428-5773**



THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROGRAM

AGENDA

Opening Remarks

Honorable Teresa D. Johnson  
Rochester City Court Judge  
Chair  
Gender Fairness Committee

12:05 - 12:50

LANGUAGE USAGE & FAIRNESS

Lorien Castelle

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

12:50 - 2:30

SEXUAL ABUSE IN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

Kathryn Ford, LMSW

Center for Court Innovation

2:40 - 4:20

WHO IS THE PRIMARY AGGRESSOR?

Bob Passonno

New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

4:25

Closing Remarks

Hon. Teresa D. Johnson

Coffee, tea, cider and donuts provided.

The Center for Court Innovation has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York for the period: January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006.

New York attorneys must retain their Certificates of Attendance for at least four (4) years from the date of the course or program.



**What Was It Really Like For Women Pioneers In The  
Judicial System?**

**How Have Things Improved?**

**The Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee**

**Presents A Women's History Month Program Panel**

**Featuring:**

**Joan de R. O'Byrne, Practicing Attorney Since 1969**

**Hon. Joan S. Kohout, First Female Attorney In The Monroe  
County Public Defender's Office**

**Sharon Rivaldo, Retired Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy,  
Who Started Working in Court Security In 1982**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2007**

**12:15-2:00p.m.**

**Courtroom 404, Hall of Justice**

**Refreshments Following**

**For Questions, or to RSVP, Please Contact Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Chair, 428-2096**



**Who pays the fees for the law guardian and the forensic evaluator?**

If the court determines that the parents have enough money to pay for these services, then the court will decide the amount that each parent will pay to the law guardian and the forensic evaluator. If the court determines that the parties do not have enough money, then the court may order that the government pay these fees.

**Must every custody dispute be determined by the court?**

No. The parents may resolve the dispute on their own. If they are unable to do so, they may ask that the court refer them to a mediation program if one is in place where they live. Without the involvement of the court, counsel and the parents may negotiate an agreement. They may also seek the aid of the law guardian. Sometimes, the recommendation of the forensic evaluator may form the basis of an agreement. The parents may also attend a parent education program. After completing the program, they may be able to reach an agreement based on the information that they learned. However, if the parties cannot reach an agreement, the court will make the determination after a trial.

**What else may the court do with respect to visitation?**

The court may order supervised visitation, therapeutic supervised visitation, a neutral place of exchange, or monitored exchanges.

**What is supervised visitation?**

Supervised visitation means that a parent cannot be alone with the child. The court chooses someone to supervise the parent's visits with the child. The courts may order supervised visitation when there are serious concerns about a parent's ability to behave properly with a child or where there has been domestic violence.

**What is therapeutic supervised visitation?**

Therapeutic supervised visitation is when a mental health professional supervises the visits. The mental health professional will intervene during the visitation, when necessary, to improve the parenting skills of the parent and may provide the parent with information about child development and effective parenting strategies and techniques.

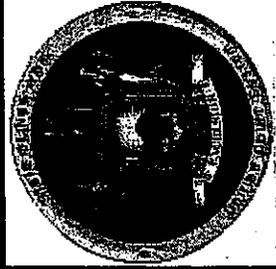
**What is a neutral place of exchange?**

A neutral place of exchange is a safe location where a child goes from one parent to the other for visitation. It may be a public location like a mall, library or police station where both parents are present. It may be the child's school where a parent goes to pick up the child at the end of the school day.

**What is monitored transition?**

A monitored transition means that the exchange of the child from one parent to the other will take place with a third party present to maintain safety during the exchange and to maintain a calm environment for the child.

# HOW DECISIONS ABOUT CHILD CUSTODY ARE MADE



**Hon. Thomas Van Strydonck**  
Administrative Judge  
Seventh Judicial District

**Hon. Marilyn O'Connor**  
Chair, Seventh Judicial District Committee  
To Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

### **What is custody?**

Custody technically involves the right and responsibility to make decisions for a child. Accordingly, the parent with custody of a child generally provides the primary physical determinations, but only until a child is 18 years of age.

### **What is the difference between joint custody and sole custody?**

In sole custody, one parent makes the major decisions about the child. Where one parent has sole custody, the other parent often has the right to be informed and consulted about decisions. With joint custody, the parents make major decisions about the child cooperatively together in the child's best interests, though sometimes a parent has final decision making authority on income or all issues in order to avoid trips to court or other formal resolution processes. Major decisions generally include religion, education, and health issues. Small day-to-day decisions are necessarily made by the parent caring for the child at the time the decision needs to be made.

### **If one parent has custody, can the other parent see the child?**

Unless there is a good reason, the courts favor a continuing relationship between the child and both parents. The courts generally will permit the other parent to have scheduled visits with the child.

### **In awarding custody, do courts favor mothers over fathers or fathers over mothers?**

No. The courts do not favor either parent in awarding custody. The misconception that gender is taken into account when deciding custody probably stems from the history of custody decision-making in this country.

Historically, children were viewed as the property of their father and custody was not even an issue. Subsequently, children were viewed as needing primarily their mother's care, and the "tender years" doctrine dictated that young children live with their mother. Today, a custody award is based on the best interests of the child.

### **What do courts consider in deciding the best interests of the child?**

The courts consider many factors including the following:

- \* which parent has been the primary care giver/nurturer of the child
- \* the parenting skills of each parent and their relative strengths and weaknesses including the ability of each parent to provide for any special needs of the child
- \* the mental and physical health of the parents
- \* whether there has been domestic violence in the family
- \* work schedules and child care plans of each parent

\* the child's interaction with brothers, sisters and members of the extended family

\* the child's wishes, depending on the age of the child

\* the ability of each parent to cooperate with the other and to encourage a relationship with the other parent, when it is safe to do so

\* if the parents are living separately, how the child is doing emotionally, socially and in school

### **How does domestic violence affect a custody decision?**

Domestic violence is defined by the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence as a "pattern of controlling and coercive behavior which can involve physical, sexual, economic, emotional and psychological abuse."

Domestic violence against either a parent or a child is considered in determining custody. Even where the violence was not committed in the presence of the child, it may still affect the child and its impact will be considered.

### **What is a "law guardian" and what is the role of the "law guardian"?**

A law guardian is an attorney chosen by the court to represent the child in custody and visitation disputes. If the child is very young, the law guardian will tell the court what the law guardian thinks is in the best interest of the child. If the child is old enough, the law guardian will tell the court what the child wants.

### **What is a "forensic evaluator"?**

A forensic evaluator is a psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker chosen by the court. He/she gathers information about the family through interviews with the family members, testing and from people who know the family members or have provided treatment to them. After gathering this information, the evaluator sends a written report to the court. The evaluator may have to come to court to testify if there is a trial.

**P. ¿Quién paga por los honorarios del representante de menores y del evaluador forense?**

**R.** Si el Tribunal determina que los padres tienen suficiente dinero para éstos servicios. El Tribunal determinará la cantidad que cada uno de los padres debe pagar al representante de menores y al evaluador forense. El Tribunal puede emitir una orden para que el gobierno pague los honorarios, si determina que los padres no tienen suficiente dinero.

**P. ¿Debe el Tribunal determinar toda disputa de custodia?**

**R.** No, los padres pueden resolver la disputa entre ellos. So no lo pueden resolver, pueden solicitarle al Tribunal que les envíe a un programa de mediación, si existe uno donde viven. Los padres pueden llegar a un acuerdo con la ayuda del consejero sin la participación del Tribunal. Los padres también pueden solicitar ayuda al representante de menores. A veces la recomendación del evaluador forense puede formar la base del acuerdo. Los padres también pueden asistir a un programa de educación para padres. Una vez que completan el programa, pudrían llegar a un acuerdo basado en la información que aprendieron. Sin embargo, si las partes no llegan a un acuerdo el Tribunal tomará una determinación después de un juicio.

**P. ¿Qué más puede hacer el Tribunal con respecto a las visitas?**

El Tribunal puede emitir una orden de visitas supervisadas, visitas supervisadas terapéuticas, un sitio y/o alguien que supervise al dejar y recoger al niño.

**P. ¿Qué es una visita supervisada?**

**R.** Una visita supervisada significa que uno de los padres no puede estar sólo con el niño. El Tribunal elige a alguien para supervisar las visitas tre los padres y los niños. El Tribunal puede expedir una orden de visitas supervisadas cuando existen serias dudas en cuanto a la habilidad de los padres de comportarse debidamente con el niño o cuando ha existido violencia doméstica.

**P. ¿Qué es una visita terapéutica supervisada?**

**R.** Una visita terapéutica supervisada es cuando la supervisa un profesional especializado en enfermedades de salud mental. Si es necesario el profesional interviene durante la visita para mejorar la destreza de los padre, puede proveerles información sobre el desarrollo de niños, efectivas técnicas y estrategias para ser mejor padres.

**P. ¿Qué es un sitio neutro para dejar y recoger al niño?**

**R.** Un sitio neutro es un lugar seguro donde los padres dejan y recogen al niño para sus visitas. Ambos padres están presentes y puede ser un lugar público como un centro comercial, la biblioteca o la jefatura de policía. Puede ser la escuela del niño donde un padre puede ir a buscarle al fin del día escolar.

**P. ¿Qué es una transición supervisada?**

**R.** Una transición supervisada significa que una tercera persona estará presente cuando los padres dejan y recogen al niño, para mantener seguridad y un ambiente de calma para el bien del niño.

## **COMO SE TOMAN LAS DECISIONES PARA DETERMINAR LA CUSTODIA**



**Hon. Thomas Van Strydonck**  
Administrative Judge  
Seventh Judicial District

**Hon. Marilyn O'Connor**  
Chair, Seventh Judicial District Committee  
To Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

**P. ¿Qué es la custodia?**

R. En teoría la custodia concierne al derecho y a la responsabilidad de tomar decisiones para el menor. Por consiguiente, el padre que tiene custodia provee las determinaciones físicas principales, solamente hasta que el menor cumpla los dieciocho años.

**P. ¿Cuál es la diferencia entre la custodia compartida y la custodia exclusiva?**

R. La custodia exclusiva es cuando un padre toma las decisiones importantes que conciernen al menor. Frecuentemente, cuando uno de los padres tiene custodia exclusiva el otro padre tiene derecho de ser informado y consultado sobre las decisiones. Al tener la custodia compartida, los padres juntos cooperan al tomar las decisiones importantes para el mejor interés del niño. Aunque hay veces en las cuales uno de los padres tiene la autoridad final para tomar la decisión en algunas o todas las cuestiones para evitar ir al Tribunal u otros procesos de resolución formal. Generalmente, las decisiones importantes son acerca de la religión, la educación y cuestiones de salud. Las pequeñas decisiones cotidianas son necesariamente tomadas por el padre que en el momento esté encargado del niño.

**P. Si uno de los padres tiene la custodia. ¿Puede el otro padre ver al niño?**

R. Los Tribunales están a favor de una duradera relación entre el niño y ambos padres a menos que exista una buena razón para no permitirlo. Generalmente, los Tribunales permiten al otro padre tener programadas visitas con el niño.

**P. Al otorgar la custodia de niños los Tribunales ¿Son partidarios hacia las madres sobre los padres?**

R. No, al otorgar la custodia los Tribunales no son partidarios de ninguno de los padres. El concepto de que el sexo de los padres se considera al determinar la custodia,

probablemente surge de la historia de las decisiones de custodia de este país. Históricamente, a los niños se les consideraba propiedad del padre y la custodia no entraba en cuestión. Posteriormente, se consideraba que los niños necesitaba principalmente el cuidado de su madre y la doctrina dictaba que en los 'tiempos años de su infancia' los niños pequeños vivieran con sus madres. Hoy en día la custodia se otorga en base al mejor interés del niño.

**P. ¿Qué consideran los Tribunales para determinar el mejor interés del niño?**

R. Los Tribunales estudian muchos factores incluyendo los siguientes:

- cuál de los padres ha tenido la responsabilidad principal de la crianza y educación del niño
- la capacidad para ser padres, sus virtudes y defectos incluyendo la capacidad que posee cada uno de ellos de proveer cuidado especial al niño
- la salud mental y física del niño
- si en la familia ha ocurrido violencia doméstica
- los horarios de trabajo y el plan de cada uno de los padres para el cuidado del niño
- la relación del niño con sus hermanos y con otros miembros de la familia
- los deseos del niño, dependiendo de su edad
- la habilidad de los padres de colaborar mutuamente y de fomentar una relación entre el niño y el otro padre, siempre y cuando no afecte la seguridad del niño
- si los padres se han separado: el estado emocional del niño, su comportamiento social y como se va en la escuela

**P. ¿De qué manera afecta la existencia de violencia doméstica en la determinación de custodia?**

R. La Oficina para la Prevención de Violencia Doméstica del Estado de Nueva York define a la violencia doméstica como " un patrón de comportamiento controlador y coercitivo, el cual puede incluir abuso físico, sexual, económico, emocional y psicológico."

La violencia doméstica hacia el niño o hacia uno de los padres se considera al determinar la custodia. Aún cuando el acto de violencia no se haya cometido en la presencia del niño, puede afectarle y se tomará en cuenta las consecuencias de ello.

**P. ¿Qué es un "representante de menores" y cuál es su papel?**

R. Un representante de menores es un abogado asignado por el Tribunal para que represente a los niños en casos de disputas de custodia y visitas. Si el niño es muy pequeño, el representante presentará al Tribunal su opinión con respecto al mejor interés del niño. Si el niño es suficientemente grande, el representante informará al Tribunal lo que el niño quiere.

**P. ¿Qué es un evaluador forense?**

R. Un evaluador forense puede ser un psiquiatra, un psicólogo o un trabajador social asignado por el Tribunal. El evaluador obtiene información sobre la familia por medio de: entrevistas con los miembros de la familia, evaluaciones psicológicas, entrevistas con personas que conocen a la familia o con personas que le han proporcionado tratamiento. Una vez que obtenga la información, el evaluador envía un informe escrito al Tribunal. Si el caso se lleva a juicio, el evaluador quizás deba de presentarse para atestiguar.

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

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

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

Support must be paid even if he/she is not seeing the children or there is a dispute about seeing the children.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The application for support may be made in the Family Court in the county where the child resides the same way as if both parents lived in New York. However, the party residing outside New York may not have to come to Court in New York. He/she may be allowed to testify by telephone.

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

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

Yes. Sometimes where neither parent can take proper care of a child, the Court gives custody to another person, such as a grandparent or other relative. The Court may then order the parents to pay child support to this person.

## HOW DECISIONS ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT ARE MADE



Hon. Thomas Van Strydonck  
Administrative Judge  
Seventh Judicial District

Hon. Marilyn O'Connor  
Chair, Seventh Judicial District Committee  
To Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

### **To whom is child support paid?**

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

### **How does a parent get child support?**

Unless the parents have an agreement as to the payment of child support, the custodial parent must apply to the Court for an order determining the amount of child support. The application may be made to the Family Court in the county where the children live. While a lawyer may represent a parent, most parents do not hire a lawyer. In Family Court, court employees help parents complete the paperwork to begin the proceeding. Both parents must bring all information and documents to the Court. Such papers may include: pay stubs; W-2 forms; tax returns for the past 3 to 5 years; bank and brokerage account statements; canceled checks; credit applications for a mortgage, credit card, car loan or personal loan; apartment lease and rent receipts. In addition, whenever an application for child support is made, both parents must complete sworn statements listing all of their income and all of their expenses.

If the parents are involved in a divorce proceeding, the Supreme Court will make an award of child support. Any applications concerning child support made in Supreme Court are made by either an attorney for a party or the party himself/herself without any help from court employees.

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

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

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

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

### **How is support paid?**

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

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

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

If the income of both parents is more than \$80,000, the Court does not have to follow the guidelines with respect to the income that is greater than \$80,000. The Court may apply the guidelines to all of the parties' income or may apply the guidelines up to an amount that the Court believes is reasonable to meet the needs of the children. In addition, the Court may apply a smaller percentage to the income over \$80,000 than the guidelines would call for.

After certain amounts provided by law are deducted from the income of the parents, the parent with whom the children do not reside pays 17% of his/her income for one child, 25% for two children, 29% for three children, 31% for four children and 35% for five or more children.

**P. ¿Qué sucede si los padres no cumplen con los pagos de pensión alimenticia requeridos por una Orden de Sustento?**

**R.** Existen muchas medidas que se pueden tomar si los padres no cumplen con la Orden de Sustento. Sin intervención alguna del Tribunal, SCU puede dirigir que una cifra adicional se adhiera a la cuota para cobrar los atrasos. Se pueden obtener los reembolsos de las contribuciones Estatales y Federales directamente del gobierno y pagar al padre que tiene custodia. A los padres responsables por el sustento se les pueden suspender las licencias para conducir, de comercio, las profesionales y otras licencias. Si el Tribunal determina después de una solicitud debidamente radicada que el incumplimiento del pago de la pensión alimenticia por parte de los padres fue intencional, puede encarcelar al padre responsable por el sustento por hasta seis meses. El Tribunal no puede encarcelar a los padres si no pueden pagar la cuota por razones fuera de su control. Por ejemplo, los padres pueden quedar incapacitados o perder su empleo por un despido laboral. Los padres encarcelados serán dejados en libertad una vez se pague la suma debida y la pendiente de pagar.

**P. ¿Qué sucede si padre responsable por el sustento no ve a los niños?**

**R.** El sustento se debe de pagar aún cuando los padres no vean a los niños o si existe una disputa para poder verles.

**P. ¿Puede el Tribunal cambiar la cantidad de sustento de una previa Orden?**

**R.** Sí, los padres que reciben sustento pueden solicitar al Tribunal por un aumento de la Pensión alimenticia y los padres responsables por el sustento por una reducción. Los padres que solicitan al Tribunal por el cambio de la cantidad de la previa Orden deben demostrar que existe una válida razón para emitir una orden para el cambio. Por ejemplo, el padre que recibe el sustento puede demostrar que el padre responsable por el sustento ha recibido un gran aumento de sueldo y que los niños requieren fondos adicionales para mantener sus gastos. Igualmente, los padres responsables del sustento pueden demostrar que han perdido su empleo por un despido laboral y han sido obligados de aceptar un empleo de sueldo inferior.

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

**R.** Si la madre tiene la custodia del menor, el Tribunal debe de determinar si la persona de la cual ella solicita el sustento es el padre. No habrá cuestión si la persona admite ser el padre. Si se niega de ser el padre, la madre tendrá que presentar una petición al Tribunal para que determine que es el padre. El Tribunal debe de celebrar una audiencia para decidir si él es el padre del menor. El Tribunal puede dirigir que se hagan análisis de sangre para asistir en la cuestión.

Si el padre tiene la custodia del menor, podrá obtener sustento de la madre sin la decisión del Tribunal de que él es el padre. Sin embargo, la madre puede solicitarle al Tribunal de determinar si en realidad él es el padre.

**P. ¿Qué sucede si el padre que tiene la custodia vive en el estado de Nueva York y el otro padre en otro estado?**

**R.** La solicitud de sustento se puede presentar en el Tribunal de Familia en el condado donde el niño reside de la misma manera como si ambos padres vivieran en Nueva York. Sin embargo la parte que reside fuera del estado de Nueva York quizás no tenga que comparecer en el Tribunal del estado de Nueva York, quizás se le permita atestiguar por teléfono.

Si la solicitud se presenta en el Tribunal Supremo una vez divorciadas las partes, el Tribunal generalmente requiere que ambos padres comparezcan.

**P. ¿Pueden personas que no son los padres de los niños solicitar al Tribunal que se les pague sustento?**

**R.** Sí, hay ocasiones en las cuales ninguno de los padres pueden debidamente cuidar al niño. El Tribunal otorga la custodia del menor a otra persona, como los abuelos u otros familiares. El Tribunal puede entonces emitir una orden para que los padres paguen el sustento a la persona que tiene custodia.

## CÓMO SE TOMAN LAS DECISIONES PARA DETERMINAR LA PENSIÓN ALIMENTICIA



**Hon. Thomas Van Strydonck**  
Administrative Judge  
Seventh Judicial District

**Hon. Marilyn O'Connor**

Chair, Seventh Judicial District Committee  
To Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

**P. ¿Quién recibe el sustento?**

**R. Generalmente,** la pensión alimenticia la recibe el padre con quien los niños viven (el que tiene la custodia). La obligación alimenticia continúa, existiendo ciertas excepciones, hasta que el menor cumpla la edad de veintiún años.

**P. ¿Cómo pueden obtener los padres pensión alimenticia?**

**R. A menos que los padres hayan llegado a un acuerdo** en cuanto al sustento, el padre que tiene la custodia debe de solicitar al Tribunal por una Orden de Sustento que determine la cantidad de la obligación alimenticia. La solicitud se puede obtener en el Tribunal de Familia del condado donde los niños viven. Un abogado puede representar a los padres pero la mayoría no contratan a uno. En el Tribunal de Familia, los empleados del condado a yudan a los padres con los formularios para comenzar el proceso. Ambos padres deben de traer toda información y documentos al Tribunal. Los documentos incluyen: talonarios, las planillas W-2, las declaraciones de impuestos de los últimos 3 a 5 años, los extractos de cuentas bancarias y comisiones, copias de cheques cancelados, copias de solicitudes de créditos: de hipoteca, de tarjetas de crédito, de prestamos de automóvil o personales, copia del contrato de arrendamiento y recibos de pago de alquiler. Además, al presentarse una solicitud de Sustento ambos padres deben de completar declaraciones juradas indicando ingresos y gastos. Si los padres están en trámites de divorcio, el Tribunal Supremo otorga el sustento de menores. Toda solicitud relacionada a la pensión alimenticia en el Tribunal Supremo se radica por el abogado representante de la parte la parte misma o por sin asistencia de los empleados del condado.

**P. ¿Cómo se determina la cantidad de sustento de menores?**

**R. Una ley del estado de Nueva York: (the Child Support Standard Act)** establece las reglas en cuanto a la cantidad de la pensión alimenticia. La cantidad se basa en la cantidad de niños y el ingreso de los padres. Una vez que ciertas cantidades provistas por la ley se deducen de los ingresos de los padres, el padre o la madre que no vive con los niños deberá de pagar: el 25% por dos hijos, el 29% por tres hijos, el 31% por cuatro hijos y el 35% por cinco hijos o más.

Si los ingresos de los padres son más de \$80.000 el Tribunal no tiene que seguir las normas con respecto a los ingresos que sobrepasen los \$80.000. El Tribunal puede aplicar las normas a los ingresos de ambas partes o aplicar las normas determinando una suma que el Tribunal crea ser razonable para cumplir con lo que los niños requieren. Además, el Tribunal puede determinar un menor porcentaje de las normas establecidas a los ingresos que sobrepasen los \$80.000.

**P. ¿Debe el Tribunal determinar la suma de la pensión alimenticia por las normas establecidas?**

**R. Generalmente, sí.** Sin embargo, si existe una válida razón, el Tribunal puede emitir una orden de mayor o menor cantidad a de las establecidas por las normas. Cada caso se decide por sus propios méritos y el Tribunal debe de considerar las circunstancias económicas de los padres y lo que es más importante, lo que requieren los niños.

**P. ¿Puede el Tribunal emitir una Orden de Sustento con una cantidad de dinero adicional a los pagos de pensión?**

**R. Sí,** el Tribunal puede emitir una orden de que al padre responsable por el sustento provea seguro médico o que pague parte del costo. Además, se le puede ordenar al padre responsable del sustento de contribuir hacia el pago de gastos, como los gastos médicos que el seguro no cubre, guardería, gastos para actividades de los niños, de instrucción religiosa, campo de verano, etc. Usualmente, los padres que ganan más pagarán más de estos gastos que los otros.

**P. ¿Qué sucede si los padres responsables del Sustento son empleados autónomos o se les paga "debajo de la mesa" o si renuncia a su trabajo?**

**R. Los padres responsable del sustento** deben de presentar documentación al Tribunal demostrando sus ganancias. Sin embargo, si el Tribunal cree que la información provelda no es exacta tiene el derecho de decidir la cantidad de ingresos correctos y fijar una cantidad de sustento basada en esa cantidad de ingresos. El Tribunal también puede basar la suma del sustento en la necesidad de los niños. El padre solicitante tendría que proveer información al Tribunal sobre los gastos del hogar, de ese modo el Tribunal podría decidir la cantidad que se necesitaría para mantener a los niños. Si los padres renuncian sus trabajos sin una válida razón, el Tribunal puede basar y fijar la suma de sustento en el sueldo anterior a la renuncia o a una cantidad que el Tribunal determine que tiene la capacidad de ganar.

**P. ¿Cómo se paga el Sustento de Menores?**

**R. El sustento se puede pagar** directamente de un padre al otro. El Tribunal puede emitir una orden de que se pague por medio de *Support Collection Unit* (SCU) la Unidad de Colección de Sustento, en el condado donde se encuentra el Tribunal. Al enviarse a SCU la Orden de Sustento emitida por el Tribunal se establece una cuenta. Si el padre responsable de la obligación alimenticia tiene empleo, una notificación se envía a la compañía. La compañía deduce el sustento de cada cheque de pago del sueldo y lo envía a SCU luego envía el pago de pensión al padre que tiene la custodia. Si el padre responsable del sustento trabaja por su cuenta o está desempleado el Tribunal puede dirigir que la cuota de sustento se pague a SCU. SCU mantiene el registro de pagos y si alguna vez una disputa de incumplimiento de pagos surge, los archivos de SCU serán presentados en el Tribunal. Por último, el Tribunal puede emitir una Orden dirigiendo a la compañía de enviar el deducido sustento del sueldo del padre responsable de la pensión directamente al padre que tiene la custodia.

*Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Rosalie Bailey**  
Erie County Courthouse  
One Niagra Plaza  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716-845-7115



## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

**Name of the Committee:** Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee

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

Hon. Rosalie Bailey  
Erie County Family Court  
One Niagara Plaza  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
716-845-7475 (ph); 716-858-7115 (fax)  
[rbailey@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:rbailey@courts.state.ny.us)

**No. members:** 29 **No. of Meetings:** 3 **Average Attendance:** 12

**Use of Video Conferencing:** No

**Composition of the Committee:**

Judges serving on the Appellate Division, Supreme Court, County Court, Family Court and City Court. Court attorneys. A defense lawyer and a prosecutor. The former president of the Minority Bar Association. Chief clerks, court assistants, courtroom clerks. The District Executive and a senior management analyst - personnel. A court interpreter. All members of the Anti-Discrimination Panel. Included are representatives from all eight counties in our judicial district.

**Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006:**

Four tours of the new Erie County Family Justice Center were offered to all court employees. The Family Justice Center is a new one-stop center for victims of domestic violence which offers a broad array of community services. Employees in all eight counties were invited to participate so that they could be aware of the services available.

In addition all District employees were notified about the national broadcast of "20-20" on October 28, 2006, which focused on domestic violence. The program highlighted an Erie County trial and included interviews with Justice John O'Donnell and prosecutor and committee member, Lisa Rodwin, plus actual videotaped footage of the abuse.

**Activities for Women's History Month 2006 or planned for 2007:**

Biannually we hold a luncheon honoring women in the court system with the Women in the Law Award. The following year we have a recognition ceremony to add their names to our plaque which is located in the Dolores M. Denman Courthouse in Rochester, the home of the Fourth Department.

In 2006, we held a recognition ceremony in conjunction with the Justices of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. The program unveiled our plaque honoring the 2003 and 2005 recipients of the Women in the Law Award. The Appellate Division rededicated their expanded Women in the Law Collection.

Our committee members and honorees joined with the Appellate Division judges and with bar and community leaders for a very moving program which paid tribute not only to our awardees but also to our first Chair, the late Fourth Department Presiding Justice M. Dolores Denman.

Hon. Eugene Pigott, then Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division Fourth Department, and now Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, spoke. Also speaking were Hon. Sharon Townsend, Administrative Judge of the Eighth Judicial District, Hon. Elizabeth Pine, Hon. Evelyn Frazee and Hon. Rosalie Bailey.

In 2007, we will be holding our district-wide luncheon in May to recognize other outstanding women leaders. Plans are currently underway.

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

1. We conducted one meeting at the Family Justice Center and our members met with counsellors, advocates and other personnel. We toured the facility and had a demonstration of the video-conferencing capabilities. Committee members received materials to distribute at their courts.
2. Our committee members participated in fairness training for current and new employees.
3. For Breast Cancer Awareness Month we held programs in four of our eight counties. The format consisted of a speaker and a question and answer period. Materials were made available. After each speech, we celebrated the lives of our friends and relatives who are survivors with a cake decorated with a pink ribbon.

At two of the programs - in Erie County and Niagara County - we had representatives of the American Cancer Society speak. In Chautauqua County, Judge Claire, who is a breast cancer survivor, spoke. In Genesee County another survivor spoke.

Everyone agreed the programs were both moving and empowering. Over cake, our co-workers spontaneously spoke about their own and their loved ones' battles with breast cancer. We learned about the importance of early detection and about new research. Materials and pink ribbons were distributed. Attendees universally agreed that they had been to an extremely important and timely presentation.

#### **Plans for Next Year:**

Our next project is our May luncheon honoring Women in the Law. We have formed a subcommittee to formulate a program on Caring for your Aging Parents. We hope to repeat our

Breast Cancer Awareness Month program in four different locations to reach the maximum number of employees in our district. We are also talking about showing some movies on racial and gender fairness topics which would be open to the court community.

**What are your committee's most important strengths?**

Our greatest strength lies in our membership. Our district includes eight counties with a real mix of populations. Several of our counties are urban and several are quite rural. Some have large courthouses and staff, some have small courthouses and staff. We have representatives from all over the district with all different job titles who sit together at one table. We strive to get subcommittees which include people from different courts and backgrounds working together so that we can hear many voices. We have tried to establish a committee of friends who come together - at holiday time we held a pot luck luncheon.

**What are your committee's biggest impediments?**

Everyone is busy and it's hard to fit in meetings. We conduct our meetings at lunch time and this means that sometimes people can't come or are late because court ran late or because a litigant needed emergency assistance.

**What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass on to other committees?**

I think it is important to include a cross-section of members of the court community. Also that everyone on the committee feels included and that what she/he has to say is important. I have seen some people who may have been reluctant to speak out due to deference to the judges present. I want every member to realize that his or her ideas are valued.

**What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?**

Perhaps having a speaker come to our district.

Also, I find our members like to receive materials. I do pass out the Newsletter when it is printed. So any written materials from the State Committee would be useful.

**What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender/bias/gender fairness committees?**

I find the annual reports extremely helpful to learn what programs are being put on statewide and what we can replicate. I enjoyed the conversations at the annual meeting which enabled me to learn about the challenges other committees have faced and how they overcame them.





*The Justices of the  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
and  
The Eighth Judicial District  
Gender and Racial Fairness Committee  
cordially invite you to a ceremony to  
rededicate the Appellate Division Library's  
expanded Women in the Law Collection  
and to unveil the plaque honoring  
the 2003 and 2005 recipients of the  
Eighth Judicial District's  
Women in the Law Award.*

*The ceremony will be held  
Thursday, September 7th  
at 1:00 p.m. in the Atrium  
of the M. Dolores Denman Courthouse  
Rochester, New York*

*Refreshments will follow the ceremony.  
Please RSVP to the  
Honorable Rose Bailey (716) 845 - 7475  
or  
David Voisinet (585) 530 - 3255*



***Women in the Law Dedication  
September 7, 2006***

Hon. Eugene Pigott, Presiding Justice Appellate Division

Hon. Sharon Townsend, Administrative Judge Eighth Judicial  
District

Hon. Rosalie Bailey, Erie County Family Court

Hon. Evelyn Frazee, Supreme Court, Seventh District

Hon. Elizabeth Pine, Associate Justice Appellate Division &  
Library Trustee

**Women in the Law Award  
Recipients**

**2003**

Susan Biller  
Martha Farbo-Lincoln  
Hon. Mary Pat Hancock  
Barbra Kavanaugh, Esq.  
Hon. Crystal D. Peoples  
Barbara Simon  
Hon. Sharon S. Townsend  
Rosemary Ward

**2005**

Genevieve Capizzi  
Hon. Judith Claire  
Margaret Dadd, Esq.  
Helen Ferraro-Zaffram, Esq.  
Ilene R. Fleischman  
Hon. Rose LaMendola  
Hon. Janice Rosa  
Anna Scott, Esq.  
Carolyn VanSchaik, Esq.  
JoAnn Wahl, Esq.

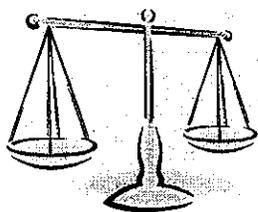
For further information about the Women in the Law Collection  
and the Appellate Division Law Library please see our  
website at [www.nycourts.gov/ad4/lib](http://www.nycourts.gov/ad4/lib)



*APPELLATE DIVISION  
LAW LIBRARY*

*M. Dolores Denman Courthouse  
50 East Ave., Suite 100  
Rochester, NY 14604-2214*

*585-530-3251*



# In the News

## Women in the Law Award Dedication

On September 7, 2006 at the M. Dolores Denman Courthouse in Rochester, New York, the Justices of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department and The Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee held a ceremony to rededicate the Appellate Division Library's expanded Women in the Law Collection and unveiled the plaque honoring the 2003 and 2005 recipients of the Eighth Judicial District's Women in Law Award.

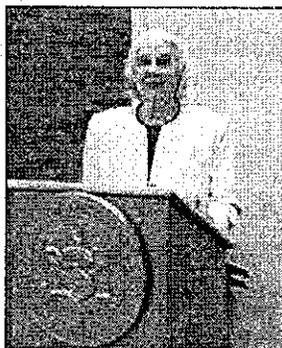
Featured speakers included **Hon. Eugene F. Pigott, Jr.**, Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals; **Hon. Sharon S. Townsend**, Administrative Judge of the Eighth Judicial District; **Hon. Rosalie Bailey**, Erie County Family Court; **Hon. Evelyn Frazee**, Supreme Court, Seventh District; and **Hon. Elizabeth Pine**, Associate Justice Appellate Division and Library Trustee.

### Women in the Law Award Recipients

2003	2005
Susan Biller	Genevieve Capizzi
Martha Farbo-Lincoln	Hon. Judith Claire
Hon. Mary Pat Hancock	Margaret Dadd, Esq.
Barbra Kavanaugh, Esq.	Helen Ferraro-Zaffram, Esq.
Hon. Crystal D. People	Ilene R. Fleischman
Barbara Simon	Hon. Rose LaMendola
Hon. Sharon S. Townsend	Hon. Janice Rosa
Rosemary Ward	Anna Scott, Esq.
	Carolyn VanSchaik, Esq.
	JoAnn Wahl, Esq.



Judge Townsend and Judge Claire

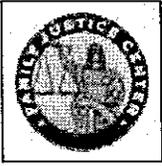


Hon. Elizabeth Pine



Genevieve Capizzi and Martha Farbo-Lincoln





## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH October 2006**



Eighth Judicial District Administrative **Judge Sharon S. Townsend** announced that in recognition of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the District's Domestic Violence Courts, Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, and the Eighth Judicial District's Gender and Racial Fairness Committee, chaired by Hon. Rosalie S. Bailey, are co-sponsoring tours of the newly established Family Justice Center of Erie County, Inc., located in the Main and Seneca Building at 237 Main Street, 14th Floor in Buffalo, New York on the following dates and times:

**Wednesday, October 4, 2006 at 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2006 at 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.**

The Family Justice Center is a one-stop center for victims of domestic violence in Erie County to access a broad array of community services, including but not limited to counseling services, legal services, forensic medical and police services all at one location. Victims also have the opportunity to obtain ex parte orders of protection from Buffalo City Court by video conferencing from the FJC of Erie County. Court Attorney Nancy McCulley serves as the Eighth Judicial District's liaison to the FJC with her office located at the FJC.

All court employees are invited to tour the FJC of Erie County during Domestic Violence Awareness month.

To schedule a tour, please contact **Court Attorney Nancy McCulley** at the Family Justice Center at (716) 845-3680 or [nmcculle@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:nmcculle@courts.state.ny.us).

You may also schedule a tour by contacting any of the listed Domestic Violence and Integrated Domestic Violence Resource Coordinators in your area listed below:

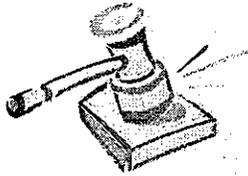
**Daphne Collier** - Buffalo City Court at (716) 845-2692 or [dcollier@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:dcollier@courts.state.ny.us)

**Colleen Gibbons** - Erie IDV Court at (716) 845-9383 or [cgibbons@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:cgibbons@courts.state.ny.us)

**Linda Berry** - Wyoming County at (585) 786-3148 or [lberry@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:lberry@courts.state.ny.us)

**Linda Fogle** - Niagara County at (716) 439-7358 or [lfogle@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:lfogle@courts.state.ny.us)

**Lisa Meacham** - Chautauqua County at (716) 753-4595 or [lmeacham@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:lmeacham@courts.state.ny.us)



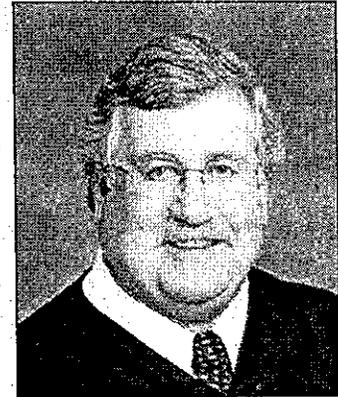
# Court News

SPECIAL REPORT

## ABC News 20/20 Report on Domestic Violence

On Friday, October 28, 2006, the ABC News program 20/20 ran an hour long broadcast on a local case here in Erie County on Domestic Violence.

The victim, Susan, was interviewed by ABC News correspondent Diane Sawyer on how she was victimized by her husband who she said was very controlling from the time they were married. She said in her interview, "The controlling was absolutely there from the beginning ... Without me recognizing it." The physical abuse started more than 10 years into the marriage when, according to Susan, she forgot an item at a nearby grocery store. "He hurt me," Susan said. "He hurt me badly. I just couldn't believe it. It's like you're almost outside your body watching and saying, 'This can't be happening.'"



Hon. John F. O'Donnell

With the help of a co-worker's calendar notes and testimony, a video tape that her husband forced her son to film during a vicious assault, Bureau Chief **Lisa Bloch Rodwin** of the Erie County District Attorney's Office, then prosecuted the case with Susan and her sons' testimony and charged her husband with 12 separate assaults against his wife.

The case was set down soon after for trial before Supreme Court **Justice John F. O'Donnell**. Judge O'Donnell stated in his interview that it was a very difficult case to hear and that he is still bothered today by the evidence. Her husband was then found guilty on all counts and Justice O'Donnell handed down a 36 year prison sentence which is the longest year prison sentence in New York history for a domestic-violence case in which the victim was not killed.

For more information on this program, click on this link: <http://abcnews.go.com/2020/>

## UCS No Tolerance Policy

The Unified Court System has a no tolerance policy for any employee found to have threatened, harassed, or abused a family or household member at the workplace, from the workplace, or on state business using any workplace resources such as work time, phones, FAX's, mail, email, etc.

A complete overview of the UCS Domestic Violence Policy is provided on the next two pages with contact information for you to utilize if you are a victim of domestic violence.



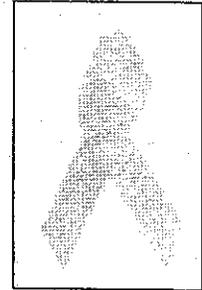


## Court News

### Breast Cancer Awareness Month

There are few among us who do not know someone whose life has been affected by breast cancer. Breast cancer is nondiscriminatory and strikes men as well as women.

The Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee chaired by Erie County Family Court **Judge Rosalie Bailey** sponsored a series of informational programs about this disease and the critical importance of early detection. They also had cake to celebrate the sweetness of the lives of our friends who are survivors.



Recent programs were held in Chautauqua County with Family Court **Judge Judith Claire**, Erie County and Niagara County with speaker Joann Harig-Ziemann and Paula Sciuk from The American Cancer Society and also in Genesee County with speaker Patty Reiner.

We urge you to join us at future programs. Please remember that non-judicial employees are entitled to take 4 hours a year of excused leave without charge for breast cancer screening.



(L to R): Judge Bailey, Denise Filosphos, Joann Harig-Ziemann, Paula Sciuk, Dawn Lukasiewicz and Marcene Castiglione



Joann Harig-Ziemann



Paula Sciuk

### Center for Resolution & Justice Oath Signing Ceremony

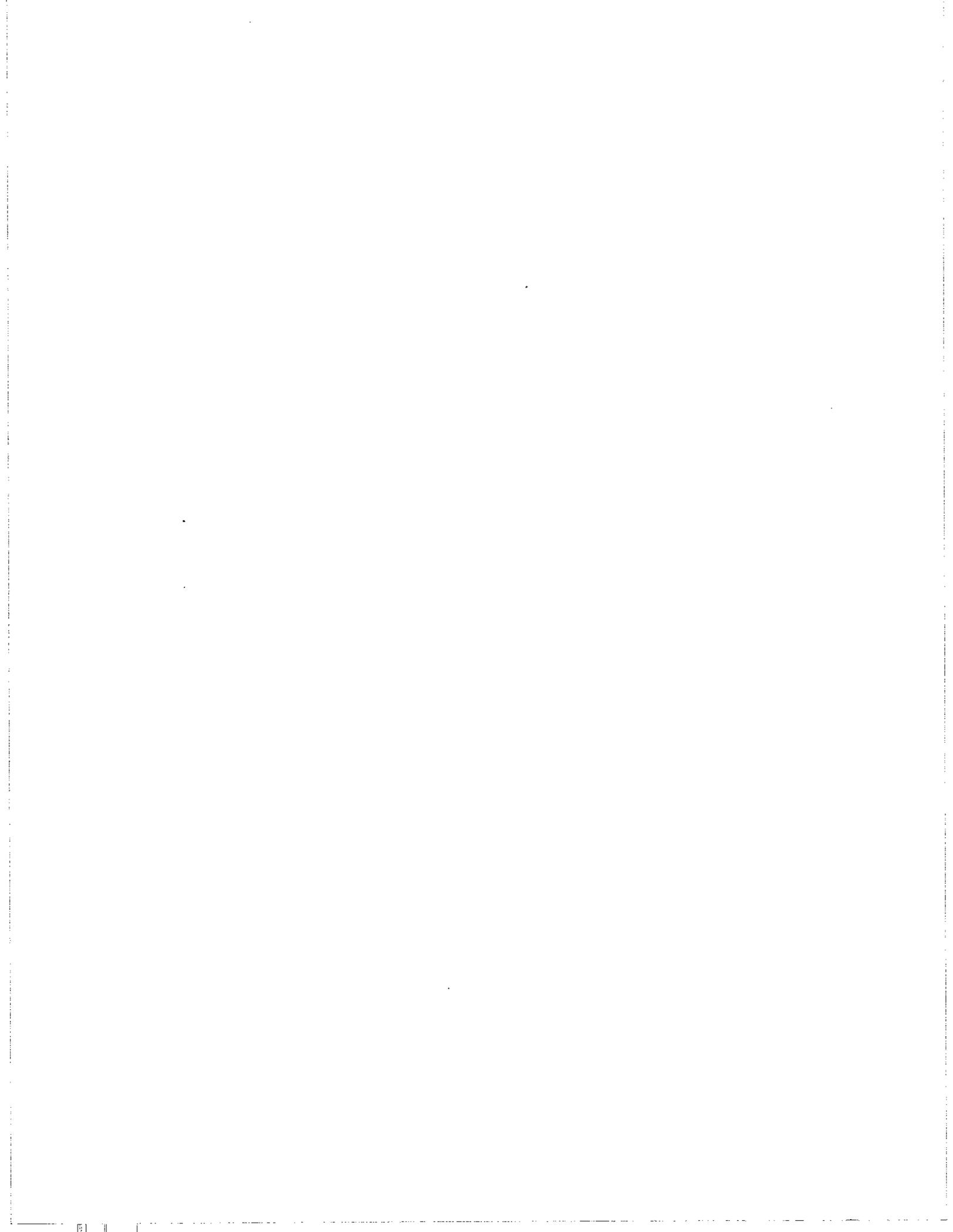
On October 11, 2006 in Jamestown, Chautauqua County Family Court **Judge Judith Claire** presided over the Child & Family Services Center for Resolution and Justice Oath Signing Ceremony.

The Ceremony, which took place in City Hall, included 17 Mediators who have completed the necessary training and apprenticeship programs to become qualified as Mediators for the Center. Those Mediators who have also completed the Custody/Visitation training and apprenticeship program mediate cases for Judge Claire in Family Court. Judge Claire has been an avid supporter of the Family Court Mediation Program since its inception, and has been instrumental in developing the program so that it now serves as a model for other programs throughout the state.



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

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



## LOCAL COMMITTEES 2006-2007

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

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

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

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

**No. of Members:** 40 **No. of Meeting:** 4 **Average Attendance:** 15 **Video Conferencing:** No

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

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

#### **Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006:**

Charlotte Watson, New York State Refugee Coordinator and Director of the Bureau of Refugee and Immigration Affairs, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, spoke at our October meeting. She addressed issues concerning human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children.

#### **Activities for Women's History Month 2006:**

The committee sponsored an essay contest open to all high school students in the Ninth Judicial District. The topic was:

Recently, the U.S. Education Department issued controversial new rules which allow public school districts to create single-sex schools and classes as long as enrollment is voluntary.

What effect, if any, would pursuing single-sex schools and classes have on encouraging or discouraging gender bias?

Local bar associations contributed to the cash prizes which will be awarded at a breakfast in the courthouse on April 20, 2007.

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

On April 28, 2006 we held a breakfast in White Plains to award the student winners of our 2006 Essay Contest in recognition of Women's History Month. At the breakfast, Hon. Terry Jane

Ruderman and Hon. Francis Nicolai, Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, presented the winners with their prizes. The students, their parents, school administrators, teachers, bar leaders, judges, attorneys and committee members joined in the celebration.

During the course of the year, we had various meetings with guest speakers. These included Susan L. Pollett, Counsel and Director, New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program; Ted Bunch, Senior Program Director, Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Accountability Program and Co-Founder, A Call to Men.

**Plans for Next Year:**

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

**What are your committee's most important strengths?**

A core of enthusiastic members. Support from the Administrative Judge.

**What are your committee's biggest impediments?**

Geographical size of the district.

**What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?**

A well-defined project gives the committee a sense of direction and purpose.

**What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts? From other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?**

Programming ideas.

# OFF THE RECORD

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURT OF CLAIMS

P.O. BOX 7344, ALBANY, NY 12224

[www.nyscourtofclaims.state.ny.us](http://www.nyscourtofclaims.state.ny.us)

April/May 2006 - Vol. 14, No. 2





## GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The Ninth Judicial District to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts Committee held a breakfast on April 28, 2006, to recognize the winners of its Annual Essay Contest in celebration of Women's History Month. Hon. Francis Nicolai, Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, and Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Court of Claims Judge and Committee Chair, presented the awards.

Students were asked to write on the topic: "Tom and Emily, both high school juniors, have been dating each other exclusively for a year when Tom hears from his friend that Emily had a few dates with Vince. Tom confronts Emily in the school parking lot. She responds 'that's a lie' and starts to walk away. Tom becomes violent and pushes Emily to the ground. She reports the incident to school officials. The school has a policy to deal with school fights, but refused to act in this case. Emily claims this is gender bias. Please discuss: The school's denial to take any action; How Emily and Tom handled this situation; Any differences you perceive if Tom's and Emily's positions were reversed."

In the freshman/sophomore category, Julia Cancro from the School of the Holy Child won First Prize and Shana Petlin from Bat Torah won Second Prize. In the junior/senior category, Leah Rothman from Bat Torah won First Prize and Deanna Goblirsch from Our Lady of Victory Academy won Second Prize.

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



L-R: Deanna Goblirsch, Julia Cancro, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Shana Petlin, Leah Rothman



Front row, L-R: Leah Rothman, Julia Cancro, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Deanna Goblirsch, Hon. Thomas H. Scuccimarra, NYS Court of Claims Judge  
Back row, L-R: John Marwell, President, Westchester County Bar Association; Frank Streng, Westchester County Bar Association; Hon. Francis Nicolai

# Westchester

# Women's Bar Association

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

◆ Take Your Children to Work Day	4
◆ WWBA Pro Bono Expo	8
◆ Pet Trusts	10
◆ Upcoming Events	12

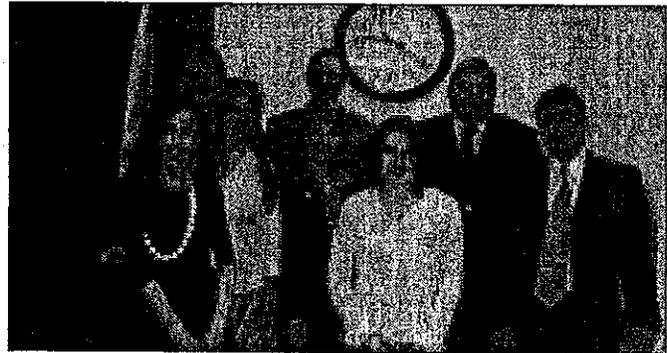
INSIDE



## GENDER FAIRNESS AWARD



Left to Right: Deanna Goblirsch, Julia Cancro, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Shana Petlin, Leah Rothman



Front Row, Left to Right: Leah Rothman, Julia Cancro, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Deanna Goblirsch, Hon. Thomas Scuccimarra, Judge, NYS Court of Claims. Back Row, Left to Right: John Marwell, President, Westchester County Bar Association, Frank Streng, Westchester County Bar Association, Hon. Francis Nicolai

The Ninth Judicial District to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts held a breakfast on April 28, 2006 to recognize the winners of its Annual Essay Contest in celebration of Women's History Month. Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, Hon. Francis Nicolai and Court of Claims Judge, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman presented the awards.

Students were asked to write on the topic, "Tom and Emily, both high school juniors, have been dating each other exclusively for a year when Tom hears from his friend that Emily had a few dates with Vince. Tom confronts Emily in the school parking lot. She

responds 'that's a lie' and starts to walk away. Tom becomes violent and pushes Emily to the ground. She reports the incident to school officials. The school has a policy to deal with school fights, but refused to act in this case. Emily claims this is gender bias. Please discuss: The school's denial to take any action; How Emily and Tom handled this situation; Any differences you perceive if Tom's and Emily's positions were reversed." In the freshman/sophomore category, Julia Cancro from the School of the Holy Child won First Prize and Shana Petlin from Bat Torah won Second Prize. In the junior/senior category, Leah Rothman from Bat Torah won First Prize and

Deanna Goblirsch from Our Lady of Victory Academy won Second Prize.

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

*Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts*

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

**Stephen W. Schlissel, Esq.**  
Schlissel, Ostrow  
200 Garden City Plaza, Suite 301  
Garden City, NY 11530  
516-877-1800



**LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007**

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

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

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

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

Use of Video Conferencing No

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

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006 or planned for 2007

Program was planned to honor Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye for her extraordinary work in improving the plight of victims of domestic violence, her work on behalf of women in the courts, as well as all of the other good work Judge Kaye has accomplished during her tenure as Chief Judge of the State of New York. Unfortunately, the program was cancelled due to personal obligations that required Judge Kaye's attention.

Activities for Women's History Month 2006 See annexed. The program was designed to celebrate the achievements of the Honorable Patricia D. Collins with the dedication of audio-visual equipment (a plasma television) in her honor in the waiting room of the Nassau County Family Court.

Other Activities in the Past Year

Have you worked in partnership with other groups? No

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

Plans for Next Year: 1. Continue with expansion of: (i) pro bono programs, (ii) educational programs for court personnel and others, and (iii) domestic violence awareness programs for attorneys.

What are your committee's most important strengths?

- 1. The various backgrounds and experiences that the Committee members bring to the meetings.
- 2. The cooperation of the Administrative Judge, Anthony Marano, and all of his staff.

What are your committee's biggest impediments?

There are no serious impediments.

What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?

Bring as much of the non-legal community in to help the Committee.

What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

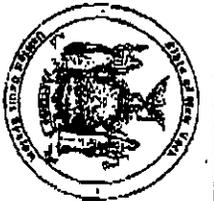
Information on other programs.

What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?

Information on other programs.

Please return this form by **March 7, 2007**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
 NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
 25 Beaver Street, Room 878, New York, New York 10004  
 212-428-2793 (fax) [Jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:Jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us)



The Nassau County Judicial Committee  
on Women in the Courts

in  
Honor of  
Women's History Month

Takes Great Pride in  
Celebrating the Achievements of

The Honorable  
Patricia D. Collins

Hon. Anthony Marano  
Administrative Judge  
of Nassau County

Hon. Margaret C. Reilly      Stephen W. Schlissel, Esq.  
Co-Chair, NCJWC/C      Co-Chair, NCJWC/C

March 30, 2006  
Nassau County Family Court  
1200 Old Country Road  
Westbury, New York

**Hon. Patricia D. Collins**

Justice Patricia D. Collins was elected as a Judge of the Nassau County District Court in 1972. After serving for two years she was elected as a Judge of the Nassau County Family Court. In 1984, having completed ten distinguished years in the Family Court, Justice Collins was elected to the Nassau County Supreme Court, and, in 1988, was elevated to the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court, Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts.

Although Justice Collins was born in Montreal Canada, she lived most of her life in Freeport, Long Island. She earned her Law Degree *cum laude* from St. Johns University School of Law and also earned a degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Upon graduating from Law School, Justice Collins maintained a private law practice until being appointed a Hempstead Deputy Town Attorney in 1955. She served as Counsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Village of Freeport, Counsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Hempstead, and Law Clerk to the Hon. Stephen B. Derounian.

Justice Collins was an active member of The Nassau Catholic Lawyers Guild, Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, the Nassau County Women's Bar Association, Freeport Lodge Sons of Italy, Catholic Daughters of America Ladies Auxiliary, Freeport Chamber of Commerce and served on the Advisory Board of the Freeport Post Office.

Justice Collins passed away on December 11, 2002.

**Opening Proclamation:**

Rosalie Fitzgerald  
Chief Clerk  
Nassau County Family Court

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Officer Kara Jean Landiero  
New York State Court Officer

**Welcome:**

Hon. Anthony Marano  
Administrative Judge  
Nassau County

**Opening Remarks:**

Hon. Carnell T. Fosley  
Supervising Judge  
Nassau County Family Court

**Remarks:**

Hon. Margaret C. Reilly  
Co-Chair, NCJWC

**Remarks:**

Peter S. Williams, Esq.  
Law Clerk, Supreme Court

**Dedication of Audio Visual Equipment**

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Poe

**Closing Remarks:**

Hon. Carnell T. Fosley  
Supervising Judge  
Nassau County

**Closing Proclamation:**

Tina Napolitano  
Associate Court Clerk  
Nassau County Family Court

*Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee*

**Hon. Sandra Sgroi**  
Suffolk Supreme Court  
400 Carleton Ave.  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
631-853-7418

**Susan C. Fox**  
Associate Court Clerk  
400 Carleton Avenue  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
631-853-3280



## SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN in the COURTS

### 2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT

#### Name & Address of Co-Chairs:

**Hon. Sandra L. Sgroi**

Supreme Court

John P. Cohalan, Jr. Courthouse

400 Carleton Avenue

Central, Islip, N.Y. 11722

E-mail: SSGROI@courts.state.ny.us

Tel. no.: 631-853-4537

Fax no.: 631-853-5427

**Susan C. Fox**

Associate Court Clerk

Suffolk County District Court

400 Carleton Avenue

Central Islip, N.Y. 11722

E-mail: SFOX@courts.state.ny.us

Tel. no.: 631-853-3280

**No. of Members:** 43

**No. of Meetings:** 8

**Average Attendance:** 25

**Use of Video Conferencing:** In the past, our use of an audio conference call system to enable members in eastern Suffolk courts to join us without having to travel long distances, proved unsuccessful. However, with the advance of video technology, we will be exploring the use of video conferencing in the future.

**Composition of Committee:** Includes judges in Supreme Court, County Court, Family Court, District Court and Town Justice Court, a Support Magistrate, Suffolk County's Commissioner of Social Services, an Assistant District Attorney, court personnel from various departments, representatives from Hofstra Law School and Touro Law Center, attorneys in private practice, women's services representatives, a domestic violence agency advocate, members of Suffolk County Task Force to Prevent Family Violence, members of the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association, Amistad Black Bar Association of Long Island, Suffolk County Bar Association and members of the community.

**Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006:**

The Committee cosponsored a program: "*Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence: Best Practices for Attorneys*," with the Center for Court Innovation. Kathryn Ford, LMSW, presented this CLE program at the Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip to more than 100 participants. Additionally, the program was simulcast to the Cromarty Court Complex in Riverhead. This program offered attorneys two CLE credits at a convenient time and place. Feedback was positive.

In addition, at our October committee meeting, committee member **Jane Vecchione, Court Advocate**, Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS), addressed the Committee on "The Cycle of Violence and the Role of the Court Advocate."

**Activities for Women's History Month 2007 (March 2007):**

This year, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee is joining with Touro Women's Bar Association in planning an event celebrating the professional career of Honorable A. Gail Prudenti, from law student to Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department. Other co-sponsors of the March 29, 2007 event are the Suffolk County Bar Association's Women & the Law Committee, Suffolk County Women's Bar Association and Touro Law Student Bar Association. The event is being held at the new Touro Law Center Facility in Central Islip which is located adjacent to Federal and State Courthouses. During March, at the second floor mezzanine of the Cohalan Complex in Central Islip, we continue our annual pictorial display of Suffolk County Women Judges and Support Magistrates and a historic time-line of their appointments.

**Guest Speaker:** At our March 7, 2007 committee meeting, **Laura Jankowski, LMSW** from the Three Village Central School District's "*Celebrating Girls*" program presented information to the committee about this after school program for elementary school fifth and sixth grade girls. The program is developed to build confidence for future decision making and offers career possibilities. The curriculum follows the "I Can!" girl principle with discussion questions from the book, "*See Jane Win for Girls*" by Dr. Sylvia Rimm.

**Other activities in the Past Year:**

**Discussion of WIC Annual Committee Reports (May 2006)**

**Luncheon Meeting (September 2006):** Introducing new members and honoring Judge Hertha Trotto for three years of dedication to the Committee as its chair.

**Bagels and Books Breakfast (May and October 2006):** Committee members participated in programs with the Children's Center Advisory Committee and Family and Children's Association. Books were donated by committee members, the Suffolk County District Court Judges Association and the Suffolk County Probation Department.

**October Breast Cancer Courthouse Alert :** Distribution of literature at Riverhead and Central Islip Court facilities in cooperation with the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association. Volunteers staffed tables in Suffolk courthouses and distributed materials provided by the American Cancer Society and Islip Town Breast Cancer Coalition.

**Stony Brook University Medical Center Breast Cancer/Prostrate Cancer "Walk for Beauty, Walk for Life":** On October 22, 2006, members of the Committee walked through Stony Brook Village to benefit breast cancer and prostrate cancer research at Stony Brook University.

**Guest Speaker: Jeffrey Grabowski, Esq., Court Attorney Referee** and Committee member **Kristin Buccaria, Resource Coordinator** addressed the Committee on the Suffolk County Model Guardianship Part which opened in 2005 and is presided over by Hon. H. Patrick Leis III. The first of its kind in New York State, the court is an integrated problem solving court which streamlines the court process for physically and mentally incapacitated individuals by reducing the number of court appearances. The one family-one judge philosophy has already proved successful in domestic

violence courts. The resource coordinator performs outreach services and helps obtain community services such as transportation, day care and assisted living facilities.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive, Hats and Mittens Collection for Children's Center (October-January 2007)**

**New Year's Luncheon (January 2007)**

**Guest Speaker: Richard Bell, Vice President of Business Affairs for Family and Children's Association and Wendy Meyer, Head Teacher** addressed the Committee about the status of the District Court Children's Center at the Cohalan Courthouse and its development as a safe and friendly environment situated away from the court and its proceedings. The center also offers a literacy program using new books donated from outside sources. The center serves children between the ages of six weeks to twelve years old and has five volunteer "foster grandparents" who supplement the regular staff.

**Heart Health Courthouse Alert (February 2, 2007):** Coincided with the American Heart Association's national "Go Red for Women" Campaign Day. Volunteers from our committee distributed literature (bilingual) obtained from the American Heart Association and the NYS Department of Health. Cardiac Care Nurses from Stony Brook University Medical Center provided free blood pressure screenings to court employees and court users at two courthouses in Suffolk County. Red ribbons, healthy heart pins and stress management materials were distributed to all participants.

**Project Assist:** This is an ongoing information service providing brochures about all types of nonprofit, nonlegal community services available to litigants and members of the public who visit Suffolk courthouses. Many of the materials are bilingual or in foreign languages. Pamphlet display racks are located in Central Islip and Riverhead courts.

**Plans for next year:**

Since Touro Law Center has moved adjacent to the Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip, we would like to do more programs that involve law school student participation.

Ongoing support of the Childcare Centers in the Cohalan Court Complex.

Continue with Domestic Violence, Breast Cancer, Heart Health and Women's History Month programs.

Keep our focus on issues concerning women litigants and families that appear in our courts.

Update and improve informational materials available to the public through our Project Assist program.

Try to further diversify the committee and attract members to meetings by simulcasting meetings to remote court locations in Riverhead.

**What are your committee's most important strengths?**

Diversity of membership who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the committee. We evaluate our membership yearly and invite new committee members who can bring new energy and ideas to the committee. We are fortunate to have our Cohalan Court Complex situated adjacent to the new Touro Law Center campus and look forward to cosponsoring programs that will benefit both Touro students and the courts.

**What are your committee's biggest impediments?**

The geography of Suffolk County makes it difficult for committee members from the East End of the County to attend meetings in Central Islip on the West End. This limits the number of members attending our regular meetings and it makes their participation on sub-committees difficult.

**What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?**

Over the last two years, we have had co-chairs. This allows us to maintain continuity as there will always be at least one experienced co-chair in place. At our regular meetings, we try to provide speakers that will keep committee members informed. We also encourage social interaction at our meetings and have breakfast and lunch sub-committee meetings. Each year in January, we have a New Year's Luncheon at a restaurant. We try to acknowledge committee members for professional career achievements or events in their lives that they share with the committee.

**What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?**

Keep local committees in touch with the statewide committee through newsletter and reports. Suggest or provide speakers for local committee programs.

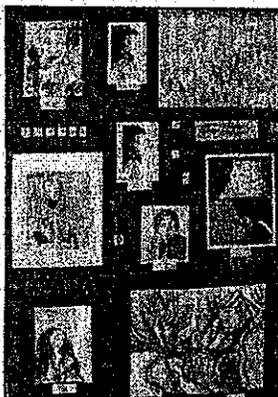
**What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?**

Continue to share ideas for meaningful programs and speakers for programs that promote our objectives.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Hon. Sandra L. Sgroi and Susan C. Fox, Co-Chairs*

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATED



On March 30, 2006, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee sponsored a celebration of National Women's History Month in a special ceremony held at the Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip. District Administrative Judge H. Patrick Leis III and Dean Lawrence Rafil from the Touro Law Center were Honored speakers at this year's ceremony.

This year, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee invited high school students from across Suffolk County to participate in an essay competition entitled, "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams." High school students participated by writing essays that recognized a woman from their community or the greater community of New York State who inspired them through her achievements or activism on behalf of her community.

Sixteen students were honored at a reception and awarded monetary prizes by Touro Law Center and the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association, Suffolk County Bar Association's Women & the Law Committee, Suffolk County Criminal Bar Association, Long Island Hispanic Bar Association, Amistad Black Bar Association of Long Island, Brehon Society of Suffolk County and Suffolk County Matrimonial Bar Association. The winning students returned to the courthouse on May 24, 2006 for a tour and luncheon with District Court judges. They were able to spend the morning observing the Honorable Hertha C. Trotto, the Honorable Patricia M. Filiberto, the Honorable Gaetan B. Lozito, the Honorable Paul Hensley, and the Honorable Toni A. Bean at work in their courtrooms and chambers in District Court.

During March the committee presented a pictorial display and historic time-line of Suffolk County Women Judges and Support Magistrates which included four newly elected female judges. In addition, artwork celebrating "Women of Different Cultures" was furnished by students from the Brentwood School District, in celebration of Women's History Month. This exhibit was on display in the second floor mezzanine of the Cohalan Court Complex. Each of these students received a certificate of appreciation from the Women in the Courts Committee in recognition of their fine work.

Justice Leis observed, "It is truly a joy to have so many of our high school students participate in this year's essay contest in celebration of Women's History Month. It is my hope that the central theme which flowed through each of the student essays - the spirit of selflessness and service to others demonstrated by each of the special women mentioned in the essays - will manifest itself in each of the students as they continue down life's challenging road."

Congratulations to the Honorable Hertha C. Trotto, Committee Chair and to all the members of the Women in the Courts Committee who worked hard to make this well received program a success.

*By: Sue Fox, Associate Court Clerk*



**Additional photos from this event are on Page 6.**

## N.Y. STATE WOMEN IN THE COURTS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING



**Pictured (l to r): Sue Fox, Cheryl Zimmer, Esq., Chief Judge Kaye, Donna Murnane and Lynn Fullshire, Esq.**

On April 26, 2006, members of the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee joined committee members from throughout New York State for the Annual Meeting of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts. Held at the New York State Bar Association in Albany, the meeting marked the 20th Anniversary of the initial report issued by the New York State Task Force on Women in the Courts formed by Hon. Lawrence H. Cooke, Chief Judge of the State of New York in 1984. Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Chair of the State Committee, welcomed Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye as the honored speaker. The program focused on the economic reality women face in the labor market and its implication on their ability to access the New York State courts. The unique economic challenges that bind domestic violence victims was also a subject of the discussion. Sue Fox, co-chair of the Suffolk County Committee, presented Suffolk's Annual Report.

*By: Sue Fox, Associate Court Clerk*

**The Center for Court Innovation  
and  
Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee**  
*present*

***Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence:  
Best Practices for Attorneys  
A Training Workshop***

**Friday, November 3, 2006  
1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Central Jury Room - Cohalan Court Complex**

**Featured Speaker:  
Kathryn Ford, LMSW  
Senior Domestic Violence Associate  
The Center for Court Innovation**

- Prevalence, dynamics & effects of children's exposure to domestic violence
  - Interviewing and assessment techniques
- Best practices for law enforcement, prosecutors, family law attorneys and the court system

**RSVP - Seating Limited:  
Donna Murnane 853-4618 or Jane Vecchione of VIBS 360-3730  
or e:mail Leslie McLoughlin at [lmclough@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:lmclough@courts.state.ny.us)**

**Light Refreshments Served  
2 Free CLE credits available**

**H. Patrick Leis III**  
*Suffolk County District Administrative Judge*

&

**Dean Lawrence Raful**  
*Touro Law Center*

*together with*

**Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee**

&

**Touro Women's Bar Association**

*cordially invite you to celebrate*

**Women's History Month**

*honoring*

**Honorable A. Gail Prudenti**

*Presiding Justice*  
*Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department*

**Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 5:00 PM**

**Touro Law Center**  
**225 Eastview Drive**  
**Central Islip, New York**

*Refreshments will be served*

**Co-sponsors**

**Suffolk County Bar Association's Women & the Law Committee**  
**Suffolk County Women's Bar Association**  
**and Touro Student Bar Association**

*RSVP by March 15, 2007*  
**Terry Beirne - 631—853-5368 · tbeirne@courts.state.ny.us**

# WOMEN JUDGES & JUSTICES OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

## Appellate Division - Second Department

A. Gail Prudenti - 2001

Supreme  
Court

Surrogate's  
Court

County  
Court

Family  
Court

Catherine T. England  
1982

A. Gail Prudenti  
1995

Barbara R. Kahn  
2005

Catherine T. England  
1981

Marilyn Friedenberg  
1987

Marion T. McNulty  
1988

A. Gail Prudenti  
1991

Nicolette M. Pach  
1993

Mary M. Werner  
1991

Barbara E. Lynaugh  
2001

Elizabeth H. Emerson  
1995

Joan M. Genchi  
2003

Denise F. Molia  
1998

Carol MacKenzie  
2005

Sandra L. Sgroi  
2001

Marlene Budd  
2006

Emily Pines  
2002

Martha L. Luft  
2006

Marion T. McNulty  
2005

Carol MacKenzie  
2006

Karen Veronica Murphy  
2006



**DISTRICT COURT JUDGES  
OF SUFFOLK COUNTY**

**GIOANNA I. LACARRUBBA  
1974**

**SONIA M. VERAS  
1997**

**ANNE F. MEAD  
1974**

**JOAN M. GENCHI  
1998**

**HERTHA C. TROTTO  
1991**

**CAROL MACKENZIE  
1999**

**FRANCEL TROTTER-  
BELLINGER  
1991**

**EMILY PINES  
1999**

**MADELINE FITZGIBBON  
1994**

**GAETAN B. LOZITO  
2001**

**BARBARA R. KAHN  
1995**

**GEORGIA A. TSCHIEMBER  
2003**

**SANDRA L. SGROI  
1996**

**TONI A. BEAN  
2004**

**PATRICIA M. FILIBERTO  
1997**

**G. ANN SPELMAN  
2005**

**Town & Village  
Women  
Justices**

**East Hampton Town**  
Catherine A. Cahill (1994)  
Lisa R. Rana (2004)

**Village of  
Huntington Bay**  
Joan Geiler (1973)

**Riverhead Town**  
Syrena Stackpole (1931)

**Village of Lake Grove**  
Helen Thompson (1989)  
Theresa Whelan (2001)  
Melissa B. Greenberger (2004)

**Town of Shelter Island**  
Katherine Z. Pope (1998)  
Helen Rosenblum (2004)

**Village of Northport**  
Deirdre M. Butterfield (1998)

**Southampton Town**  
Deborah E. Kooperstein (1993)  
Barbara L. Wilson (1998)

**Village of Ocean Beach**  
Pamela R. Esterman (2006)

**Southold Town**  
Louisa P. Evans (1994)

**Village of Quogue**  
Kittric D. Motz (1991)

**Village of Amityville**  
Debra Ann Urbano DiSalvo (2003)  
Elizabeth M. Nieme (2006)

**Village of Patchogue**  
Barbara K. Howie (1999)  
Kerri N. Lechtrecker (2004)

**Village of Babylon**  
Jennifer Anne Henry (2001)

**Village of Poquott**  
Gigi A. Spelman (2003)

**Village of Bellport**  
Lynn A. Green (1990)

**Village of Saltaire**  
Rhonda Kirschner (2001)  
Hillary Richard (2004)

**Village of the Branch**  
Jacqueline Lupichuk Skubik (1989)

**Village of Southampton**  
Barbara L. Wilson (2006)

**Village of Head of the Harbor**  
Anne Bowns Sayre (1989)  
Ellen Dee Fishkin (1995)

***Suffolk County Family Court  
Support Magistrates***

**Family Court  
Hearing Examiners  
(1985-2003)**

Isabel E. Buse (1985)

Carol Casher (1985)

Lois Weinstein (1985)

Cheryl Zimmer (1990)

Madeline Fitzgibbon (1993)

Barbara Lynaugh (1993)

Elaine Crosson (1995)

Aletha Fields-Ferarro (1997)

Denise Livrieri (1999)

Jill Plosky (2000)

Valerie Sherman (2001)

Jennifer Buetow (2002)

**Family Court  
Support Magistrates  
(Enacted 2003)**

Jennifer Buetow (2003)

Isabel E. Buse (2003)

Aletha Fields-Ferraro (2003)

Denise Livrieri (2003)

Jill Plosky (2003)

Valerie Sherman (2003)

Rosann O. Orlando (2004)



Please join us at

The Children's Center  
Cohalan Court Complex

for a

Bagels & Books Breakfast

Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am  
Room A236 District Court

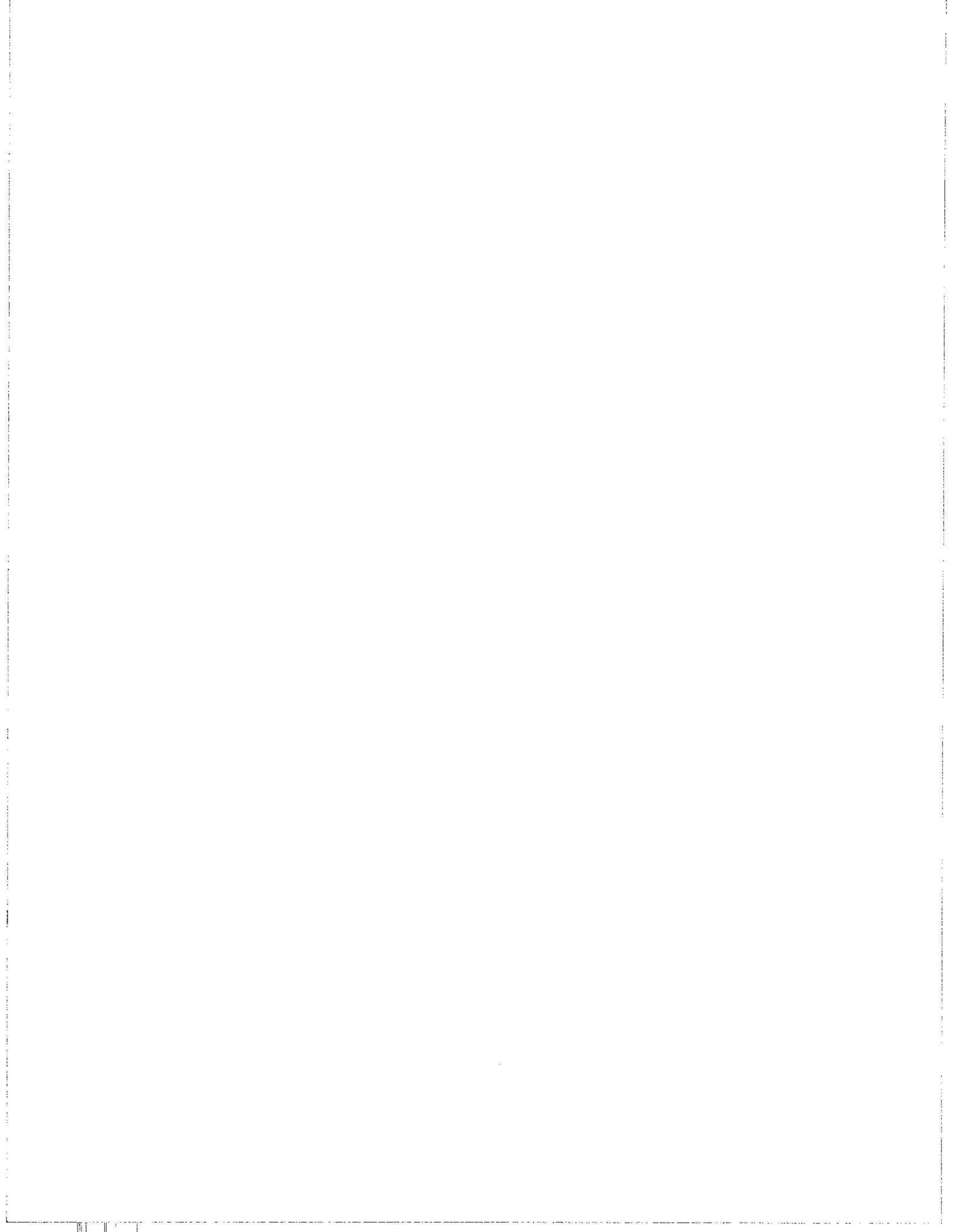
Please bring a new children's book  
and enjoy a bagel breakfast with us

RSVP

Wendy Meyer  
631-853-4509

*Gender Fairness Committee of the  
Criminal Court of the City of New York*

**Hon. Deborah Kaplan**  
NYC Criminal Court  
111 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10013  
646-386-5566



## **LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007**

**Name of the Committee:** Gender Fairness Committee of the Criminal Court of the City of New York

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

Hon. Deborah Kaplan  
Civil Court of the City of New York  
111 Centre Street  
New York, New York 10013  
tel: 646-386-5566  
Fax: 212-374-6321  
email: [dkaplan@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:dkaplan@courts.state.ny.us)

**No. Members:** 11 **No. of Meetings:** 3 **Average Attendance :** varies **Use of Video Conferencing?** No

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

The Committee is currently comprised of judges, court administrators, court attorneys, defense and prosecution attorneys.

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

**Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006**

Brooklyn Criminal Court held its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Domestic Violence Awareness Program. The program was entitled "Sexual Assault in Intimate Relationships: Best Practices for Intervention". The goal was to show an overview of the cultural, social and legal history of intimate partner sexual assault and to discuss the best practices for advocates, attorneys, law enforcement and the court system. The lecture was presented by Kathryn Ford, the Senior Domestic Violence Associate, from the Center for Court Innovation. The audience included judicial, and non-judicial staff of Criminal Court, victim advocates, the District Attorney's office, defense bar, a number of the victim advocate groups and the general public.

In November 2006, Judge Miriam Cyrulnik, presiding judge for the Kings County Criminal Domestic Violence court, was on a panel hosted by the Kings County District Attorney's office on how the Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Court (YODVC) operates in Kings Criminal Court. The lecture was intended to educate attorneys, social services groups and victim advocate groups.

**Other Activities in the Past Year**

The Criminal Court has re-affirmed its commitment to addressing the myriad of issues surrounding the management of prostitution and related offenses. This year the Midtown

Community Court has continued to expand its current programs and has implemented two new and exciting initiatives, which we are in the process of expanding to our other courts

In 2006, of the over 1,800 women arraigned at the Midtown Community Court, twenty percent were charged with prostitution-related crimes. The average age of female defendants is twenty-six years old.. Forty-four percent identify as Black, twenty -one percent as Latino, fifteen percent as White, and thirteen percent as Asian. Sixty-nine percent of the female defendants do not have a prior criminal record. Of the seventy percent who are either convicted of a crime or a lesser offense (including Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissals), over 1,500 women are sentenced to alternative sanctions, including community service and/or social services. Their compliance rate is staggeringly high and stands at ninety-two percent.

In recognition of the special needs of women involved with prostitution, the Midtown Community Court has devised several programs that focus on rehabilitation and ending recidivism. Tragically, the average age of entry into prostitution today is twelve years of age, and millions of women spend their entire lives trapped by this criminal epidemic, unaware of their intrinsic value and ability to escape. According to recent studies, it is estimated that over eighty percent of female defendants in the criminal justice system have been the victims of sexual exploitation or violence. The statistics for female prostitutes are even more disheartening, with a reported ninety percent having been sexually abused as children. This population is in particular need of empathy and support.

In response, the Midtown Community Court has developed the following comprehensive strategy for addressing their needs and concerns of women arrested on prostitution-related charges. A female defendant will typically be mandated to one of four social services programs, in addition to night-time community service;

1. the onsite *Health Education Class for Females* for first-time offenders which educates participants about the health risks they encounter through their lifestyle and public resources available to them;
2. treatment at *GEMS*, an non-profit agency devoted to serving young women under the age of 22 who have been sexually exploited;
3. the new onsite *Choices* program for those over 22 years of age and with lengthier rap sheets; and
4. the new onsite *Crossroads* program for Chinese-speaking defendants which provides information about ethnic-specific social service providers with a focus on trafficking and the resources for victims, as needed.

“As a child, I was given a second chance and an opportunity to live again.” These powerful words belong to Dominique Vicker, a former client and now Assistant Outreach Coordinator of *GEMS, Girls Educational and Mentoring Service*. Founded in 1999 by survivors, *GEMS* is the only non-profit organization in New York State specifically catering to sexually exploited young women. The Midtown Community Court was the first court to use *GEMS* services as an alternative-to-incarceration and continually facilitates the enrollment of at-risk female offenders, promoting the organization as an essential source of intervention, education, mentoring, and long-term care. A judge, can sentence young women from thirty to ninety days of services at *GEMS*, which will include referrals for those who voluntarily seek to leave the lifestyle of prostitution. Providing a host of transitional and preventative services, the program fosters

resilience, strength, and a sense of self-worth, which emboldens young women, like Ms. Vicker, to renounce their unsafe and unhealthy lifestyles.

For women over the age of twenty-two, the Court offers a new and similar program. “*Choices* is which is based on the successful GEMS model provides women with the tools, services, and confidence they need to motivate change in their lives,” states Becca Harrison, a social worker, who was instrumental in creating the curriculum. Defendants are sentenced to either three or twelve two hour sessions, which embody a mixture of learning, discussion, and counseling. *Choices* focuses on the basic necessities of a well-functioning adult, helping clients to secure: housing, proper identification, and public benefits; educating them on: managing finances, thwarting disease transmission, and obtaining full-time employment. The second half of each session is moderated by the Women’s Theater Group, devoted to creative exploration through poetry, acting and writing. Upon graduation, clients are provided with resources for on-going help.

Previously the Court’s social services for Chinese-speaking defendants were extremely limited. However, with the support of a bilingual court interpreter, the Court launched *Crossroads*, a new educational group geared to educate individuals about the impact of their crimes on the community and to address their social services needs. With the increase in the numbers of defendants involved with prostitution, the group will also work to identify and support those who may be victims of trafficking by linking them to New York Asian Women’s Center and the Anti-Trafficking initiatives at New York Association for New Americans and Safe Horizon. The Court will also develop services for Korean-speaking defendants this summer with the support of area social service providers.

This year, Queens Criminal Court started a specialized court calendar for prostitution cases. The successful GEMS program now provides on-site advocacy. A dedicated assistant district attorney is also assigned to the part. Where appropriate, defendants are required to attend GEMS or another program, prior to sentencing. Compliance is monitored by the court through the on-site GEMS advocate. If the defendant complies with the program mandates, she will be offered a lesser sentence by the prosecution. The goal of this specialized calendar is to provide immediate services to young women defendants who are charged with prostitution in the hope that they will be able to leave their current lifestyle and maintain a safe and productive life.

New York City Criminal Court, namely the New York County Domestic Violence part was involved in the planning of the New York County Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV). The IDV courts are designed to coordinate court action for families affected by domestic violence by bringing related cases involving the same family before a single judge. This goal is accomplished by providing complete information about family issues to aid in the judicial decision-making, and by concentrating on resources and services in one court to address the multiple needs for the family.

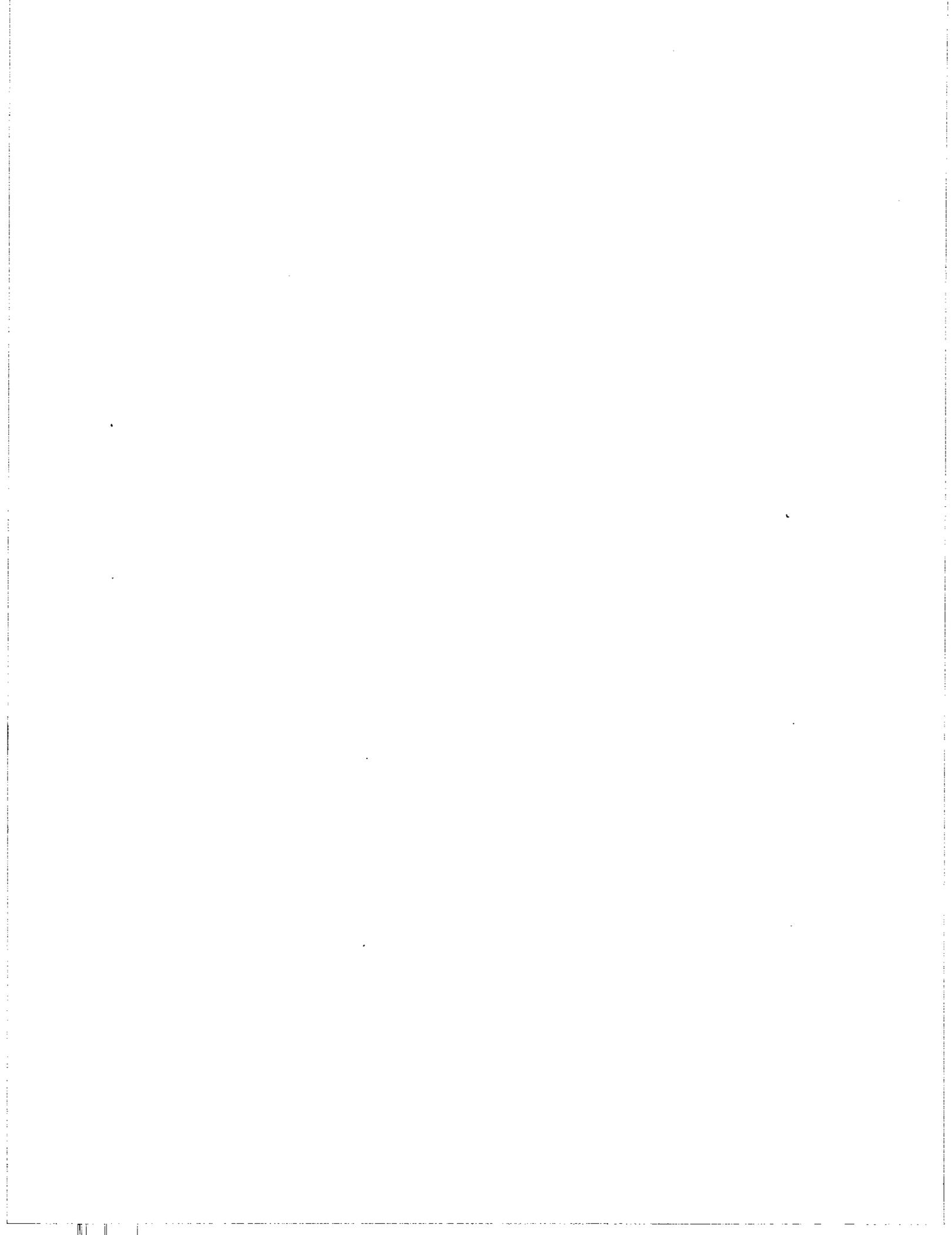
#### **Plans for Next Year:**

The Committee hopes to expand the availability of these important programs to our



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

**Hon. Bonnie Wittner**  
NY Supreme Court  
111 Centre Street, Room 739  
New York, NY 10013  
646-386-4426



## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

Name of the Committee Gender Fairness, N.Y. Co. Supreme Ct., Criminal Term

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

Hon. Bonnie G. Wittner, 100 Centre St., N.Y. N.Y. 10013  
bgwittner@courts.state.ny.us

No. Members 26 No. of Meetings 6 Average Attendance 8-10 Use of Video Conferencing? No

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.) Judges, Principal Court Clerks, Court Attorneys, S.C.O.'S, Interpreter, A.D.A.'S, Defense Counsel

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006 Co-sponsored Panel with N.Y. County Lawyers Assn. on Experience of Women Jurists, held on September 13, 2006.

Activities for Women's History Month 2006 or planned for 2007 Panel or Lecture with Linda Fairstein, author and former A.D.A. in charge of the Sex Crimes Bureau.

Other Activities in the Past Year: Researched issue of women Supreme Court Officers in supervisory positions in Criminal Term, New York County; wrote to OCA, Chief Clerk and Administrative Judges. As a result of our efforts, and after the Sergeants' exams, a number of women S.C.O.'s were promoted. We intend to continue to pursue this issue.

Plans for Next Year: Sponsoring a career day for college students in the area, with representatives of the different jobs and career opportunities in the Court system.

What do you think are your Committee's most important strengths: Diversity and commitment of members

What are your committee's biggest impediments? Lack of funding

What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

The Committee should make the local administrative judges aware of our work and encourage their support through provision of funds and clerical assistance. It would be helpful to be informed throughout the year what other committees are doing, and if there are opportunities to coordinate panels, programs and initiatives with them.

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

### LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

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

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

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

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

Use of Video Conferencing No

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

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006 or planned for 2007

Program was planned to honor Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye for her extraordinary work in improving the plight of victims of domestic violence, her work on behalf of women in the courts, as well as all of the other good work Judge Kaye has accomplished during her tenure as Chief Judge of the State of New York. Unfortunately, the program was cancelled due to personal obligations that required Judge Kaye's attention.

Activities for Women's History Month 2006 See annexed. The program was designed to celebrate the achievements of the Honorable Patricia D. Collins with the dedication of audio-visual equipment (a plasma television) in her honor in the waiting room of the Nassau County Family Court.

Other Activities in the Past Year

Have you worked in partnership with other groups? No

Bar Associations? Yes - NCBA

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

Plans for Next Year: 1. Continue with expansion of: (i) pro bono programs, (ii) educational programs for court personnel and others, and (iii) domestic violence awareness programs for attorneys.

What are your committee's most important strengths?

- 1. The various backgrounds and experiences that the Committee members bring to the meetings.
- 2. The cooperation of the Administrative Judge, Anthony Marano, and all of his staff.

What are your committee's biggest impediments?

There are no serious impediments.

What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?  
Bring as much of the non-legal community in to help the Committee.

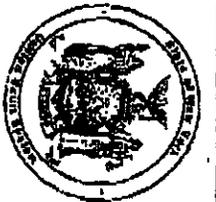
What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?  
Information on other programs.

What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?  
Information on other programs.

Please return this form by **March 7, 2007**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
 NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
 25 Beaver Street, Room 878, New York, New York 10004  
 212-428-2793 (fax) [Jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:Jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us)





The Nassau County Judicial Committee  
on Women in the Courts

in  
Honor of  
Women's History Month

Takes Great Pride in  
Celebrating the Achievements of

The Honorable  
Patricia D. Collins

Hon. Anthony Marano  
Administrative Judge  
of Nassau County

Hon. Margaret C. Reilly      Stephen W. Schlissel, Esq.  
Co-Chair, NCJ/CWC      Co-Chair, NCJ/CWC

March 30, 2006  
Nassau County Family Court  
1200 Old Country Road  
Westbury, New York

**Hon. Patricia D. Collins**

Justice Patricia D. Collins was elected as a Judge of the Nassau County District Court in 1972. After serving for two years she was elected as a Judge of the Nassau County Family Court. In 1984, having completed ten distinguished years in the Family Court, Justice Collins was elected to the Nassau County Supreme Court, and, in 1988, was elevated to the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court, Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts.

Although Justice Collins was born in Montreal Canada, she lived most of her life in Freeport, Long Island. She earned her Law Degree *cum laude* from St. Johns University School of Law and also earned a degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Upon graduating from Law School, Justice Collins maintained a private law practice until being appointed a Hempstead Deputy Town Attorney in 1955. She served as Counsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Village of Freeport, Counsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Hempstead, and Law Clerk to the Hon. Stephen B. Denounian.

Justice Collins was an active member of The Nassau Catholic Lawyers Guild, Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, the Nassau County Women's Bar Association, Freeport Lodge Sons of Italy, Catholic Daughters of America Ladies Auxiliary, Freeport Chamber of Commerce and served on the Advisory Board of the Freeport Post Office.

Justice Collins passed away on December 11, 2002.

**Opening Proclamation:**

Rosalie Fitzgerald  
Chief Clerk  
Nassau County Family Court

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Officer Kara Jean Lardiero  
New York State Court Officer

**Welcomes:**

Hon. Anthony Marano  
Administrative Judge  
Nassau County

**Opening Remarks:**

Hon. Carnell T. Foskey  
Supervising Judge  
Nassau County Family Court

**Remarks:**

Hon. Margaret C. Reilly  
Co-Chair, NQCWC

**Remarks:**

Peter S. Williams, Esq.  
Law Clerk, Supreme Court

**Dedication of Audio Visual Equipment  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Fee**

**Closing Remarks:**

Hon. Carnell T. Poskey  
Supervising Judge  
Nassau County

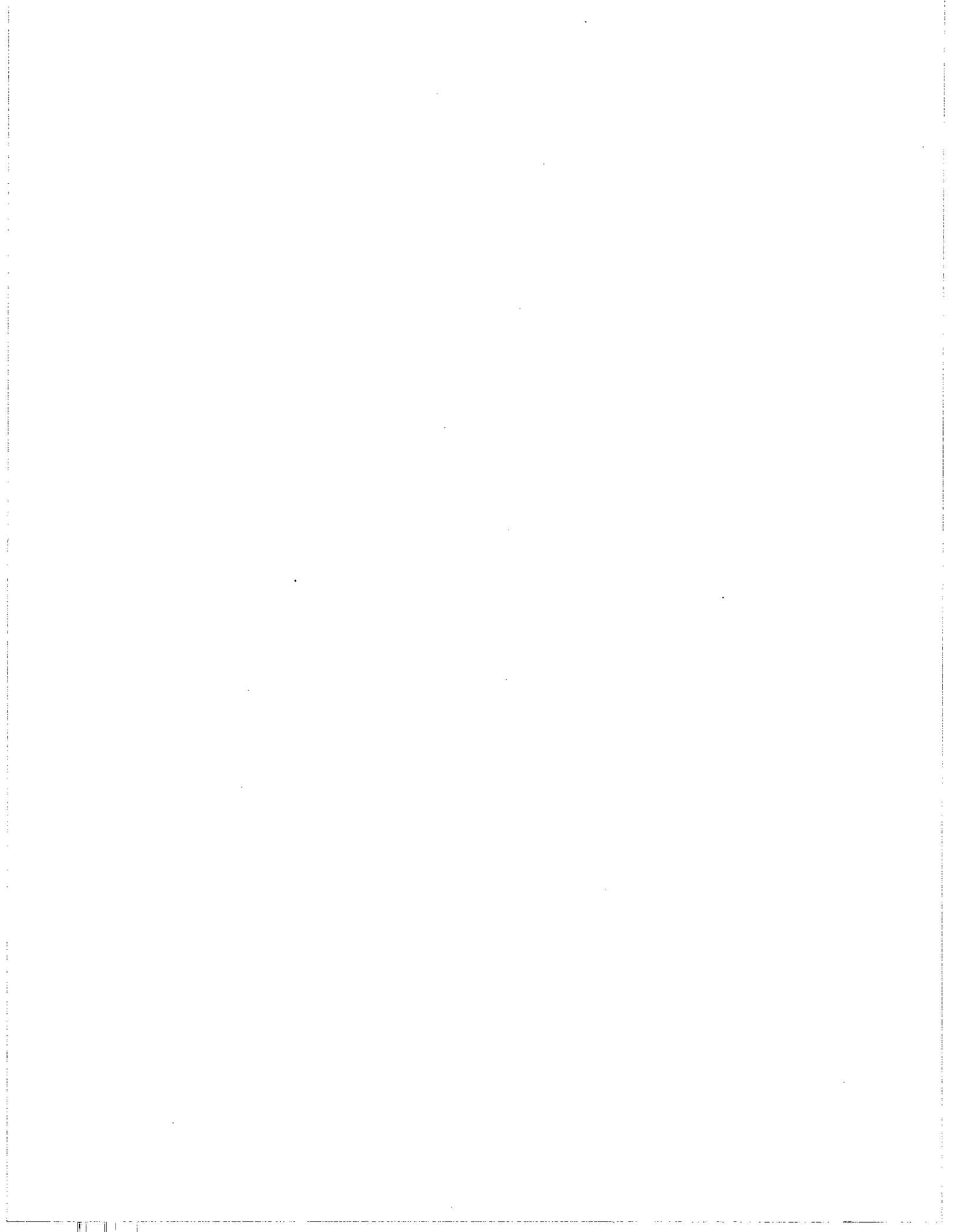
**Closing Proclamation:**

Tina Napolitano  
Associate Court Clerk  
Nassau County Family Court

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

**Hon. John E. H. Stackhouse**  
Justice, Supreme Court  
80 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10013  
646-386-3751

**Ross Upshaw**  
Chief Court Reporter  
Supreme Court  
60 Centre Street, R.308  
New York, NY 10013  
646-386-3052



## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

Name of the Committee The Anti-Bias Committee, Supreme Court New York County

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

John E.H. Stackhouse; 646-386-3751; 80 Centre Street, New York, NY, 10013

Ross Upshaw; 646-386-3052.; 60 Centre Street, New York, NY, 10013

No. Members 56 No. of Meetings 20 Average Attendance 25 Use of Video Conferencing? No

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.) Judges, Court Attorneys, Administrators, Clerks, Court Officers and Secretaries.

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006 On October 25, 2006 Anne Butler, author of "Weeping for the Living" spoke at a luncheon meeting. Thirty-five people were in attendance. She described how her husband had tried to murder her.

Activities for Women's History Month 2006 or planned for 2007 On March 16, 2006 a 20 minute documentary on prominent women of the bar was shown and an award was presented to Esther Bandel for her long service to the court. Justice Carmen Beauchamps Ciparick, Associate Judge of the NY Court of Appeals, spoke.

Other Activities in the Past Year A reception was held at the NY Tolerance Center, 220 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street on June 14, 2006 for members of the Committee. On February 16, 2006 the Future Leaders of America Awards Program was held in honor of Black History Month. On February 9, 2006 the Dance Theatre of Harlem performed in the rotunda of 60 Centre Street. On April 27, 2006 we held the Take Our Children to Work Program.

**Plans for Next Year:** Women's History Month Program, Black History Month Program, Domestic Violence Program, Tolerance Center Visit, Cultural Diversity Celebration and Take Our Children to Work Program.

**What are your committee's most important strengths?** Our members are a very creative and energetic group. We get wonderful support from our County Clerk and law staff. We have great camaraderie on the Committee.

**What are your committee's biggest impediments?** Interpersonal relations.

**What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?**  
Try to involve as many people as possible.

**What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?**  
We could use some help with funding for food.

**What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?**  
Share your wisdom and ideas.

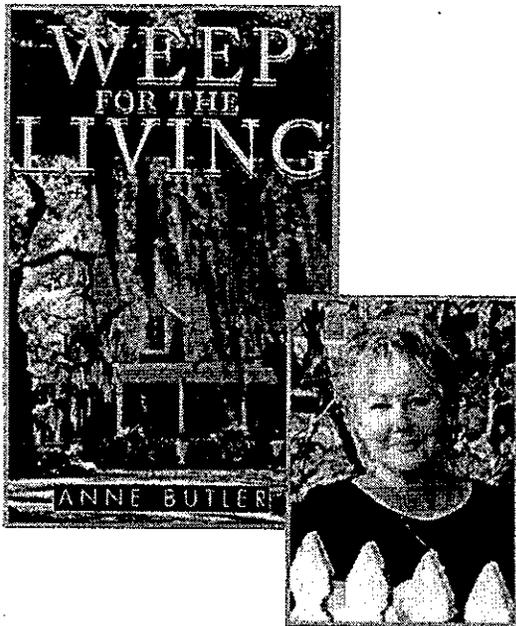
Please return this form by **March 7, 2007**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878, New York, NY 10004  
212-428-2793 (Fax) [jgoodman@Courts.state.ny.us](mailto:jgoodman@Courts.state.ny.us)

The Gender Fairness Committee of the Supreme Court, Kings County  
in recognition of Domestic Violence Month

WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKERS  
**ANNE BUTLER**  
and  
**IRVIN MAGRI, JR.**

**Shot five times at point blank range,  
Anne Butler's incredible experience is absolutely unbelievable!**



**Irvin Magri's reasons for leaving  
the Pardon Board are just as shocking.**

AUTHOR  
**ANNE BUTLER**

A quiet, well-educated mother of two, St. Francisville, Louisiana author Anne Butler worked as a journalist, editor, writer and is the author of several hair-raising non-fiction crime books.

Anne Butler frequently addresses the issue of domestic violence on television (The Montel Williams Show, Sally Jesse Raphael and Court TV with Catherine Cryer), at speaking engagements and anger management courses. Last year she was a featured speaker at the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence statewide convention for more than 500 professionals in the field.

As a writer, she certainly never intended to be more than an objective observer, but when she became a crime victim herself, she wrote a riveting book on that experience (*Weep for the Living*, Pelican Publishing Co.) to give a voice to what has too often been a silent crime. Ms. Butler was shot five times at point-blank range by her husband, a former well-connected prison warden and state corrections commissioner.

FORMER NOPD OFFICER  
**IRVIN MAGRI**

There is no individual who can better address these issues than Mr. Irvin L. Magri, Jr., Criminologist, longtime veteran of the New Orleans Police Department and former Chairman of the Louisiana State Pardon Board, who lost his job as Chair, after resisting political pressure to release the perpetrator in this case. He joins Ms. Butler in speaking, adding his own unique perspective.

Mr. Magri's career accomplishments are too many to name. However, he made over 3,013 physical arrests during his law enforcement career, hosted two police television shows ("Crimewave" and "The Detectives"), and was the recipient of 102 Community Service Awards.

Thursday, October 26, 2006  
1:00 PM

Supreme Court, Kings County  
320 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY  
25<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

---

Ms. Butler and Mr. Magri make a fantastic team speaking on the subject of domestic violence.

**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT! IT'S NOT FICTION, IT'S PURE FACT!**

Both will be available to speak with you after the program  
and Ms. Butler will be happy to autograph copies of her book *Weep for the Living*.

*In Honor of Black History Month*

Join Us for

*"An Informal Presentation on the Art of Dance"*

Hosted by  
*Arthur Mitchell, Artistic Director*

Featuring

*The Dance Theatre of Harlem School*

*Thursday, February 9, 2006*

*12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

*60 Centre Street, Rotunda*

**Co-Sponsors**

**Dance Theatre of Harlem**

**Arthur Mitchell, Artistic Director**

**Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County**

**Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann, Administrative Judge**

**Anti-Bias Committee, Co-Chairs,**

**Hon. John E. H. Stackhouse**

**Ross Upshaw**

**Program Subcommittee, Co-Chairs**

**Pearl Hampton**

**P. J. Garone**

**The Office of the New York County Clerk**

**Hon. Norman Goodman, County Clerk**

047 137 2000 10:00 212 420 2100 JILL LEONIE MUMFORD

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Future Leaders Achievement Awards  
in honor of  
Black History Month**



**Thursday, February 16, 2006 - 4:30 p.m.  
Supreme Court Civil Branch  
60 Centre Street - Room 300**

**Mistress of Ceremonies**

**Hon. Juanita Bing Newton**

*Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives  
Administrative Judge of the Criminal Court of the City of New York*

**Role Models Presenting Awards to Students of  
Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change**

**Sports Award**

**Leonard J. Elmore, Esq.**  
*Former NBA Basketball Player  
ESPN, ABC & CBS Sports Analyst*

**Law Award**

**Paul T. Williams, Esq.**  
*Partner, Bryan Cave LLP  
Pres. Emeritus 100 Black Men, Inc.*

**Science/Technology Award**

**Bert Petersen, Jr., MD**  
*Surgical Oncologist*

**Performing Arts Award**

**Leslie Uggams**  
*Singer & Actress  
Recipient of Tony Award for Best Actress*

**Social Change Award**

**Debra Fraser-Howze**  
*Pres. & CEO of National Black  
Leadership Commission on AIDS*

**Literature Award**

**Herb Boyd**  
*Author, Journalist & Editor*

**Education Award**

**Hon. William C. Thompson, Jr.**  
*New York City Comptroller  
Former Pres. of the NYC Bd. of Education*

**Business Award**

**Carla Harris**  
*Managing Director of Morgan  
Stanley Global Capital Markets*

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

**PLEASE JOIN US .... ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Sponsored by:**

*The Anti-Bias Committee, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County  
Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse and Ross Upshaw, Chairs  
Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam and Hon. Robert Lippmann, Co-Chairs  
New York County Clerk's Office, Hon. Norman Goodman, County Clerk*

07/10/2006 10:03 212 720 2133 BILL LARIVE GROOMING 10:20

**THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT ANTI-BIAS COMMITTEE  
SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**COMMEMORATION PROGRAM**

February 16, 2006

**Speakers:**

**WELCOME**

*Introduction of Ross Upshaw  
Co-Chair of the Anti-bias Committee*

*Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam*

**BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM**

*Audience Participation, lead by Thurgood Marshall Academy*

**INTRODUCTION**

*Introduction of Hon. Juanita Bing Newton,  
Administrative Judge, Civil Courts of the City of New York,  
as Mistress of Ceremonies*

*Ross Upshaw*

**THURGOOD MARSHALL ACADEMY FOR LEARNING AND SOCIAL CHANGE  
FUTURE LEADERS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTATION**

**EDUCATION AWARD**

- Introduction of Hon. William C. Thompson*
- Award Presentation to Student*

*Lamar Saunders*

*Hon. Ira Gammerman  
Hon. William C. Thompson*

**LITERATURE AWARD**

- Introduction of Herb Boyd*
- Award Presentation to Student*

*Nicolette Keller*

*Hon. Debra James  
Herb Boyd*

**LAW/POLITICAL SCIENCE AWARD**

- Introduction of Paul Williams, Esq.*
- Award Presentation to Student*

*Natalie Francis*

*Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam  
Paul Williams, Esq.*

**SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY AWARD**

- Introduction of Bert Petersen, Jr., MD*
- Award Presentation to Student*

*Kendon Smith Holder*

*Hon. Norman Goodman  
Bert Petersen, Jr., MD*

**BUSINESS AWARD**

- Introduction of Carla Harris*
- Award Presentation to Student*

*Karina Altagracia Peralta*

*Ta-Tanisha James, Esq.  
Carla Harris*

**POETRY PRESENTATION**

*Students of Thurgood Marshall Academy*

**SOCIAL ACTIVISM AWARD**

- Introduction of Debra Fraser-Howze*
- Award Presentation to Student*

*Lanee' Herb*

*Hon. Debra James  
Debra Fraser-Howze*

**SPORTS AWARD**

- Introduction of Leonard Elmore, Esq.*
- Award Presentation to Student*

*Sean Corley*

*Hon. John Stackhouse  
Leonard Elmore, Esq.*

**PERFORMING ARTS AWARD**

- Introduction of Leslie Uggams*
- Award Presentation to Student*

*Brandy Robinson*

*Hon. Fern Fisher  
Leslie Uggams*

**MUSICAL PRESENTATION**

*Students of Thurgood Marshall Academy*

**CLOSING REMARKS**

*Hon. Juanita Bing Newton*

**REFRESHMENTS SERVED**

# **Women's History Month Celebration**

**Thursday, March 16, 2006 - 12:45 p.m.  
60 Centre Street, Room 300**

## **Welcome**

**Honorable Jacqueline W. Silbermann**

**Film**

***Trailblazers: Pioneering Women in New York Law***  
**A 20 minute documentary directed by Maia Wechsler, including a tribute to  
Honorable Constance Baker Motley**

**Honorable Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the N.Y. Court of Appeals**

**Distinguished Service award presented to Esther Bandel**

**Introduction of Principal Speaker**

**Honorable Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Assoc. Judge, N.Y. Court of Appeals**  
**Address: Life in the Law**

**Light refreshments will be served**

**Please join us. All are welcome to attend.**

***Sponsored by:***

***The Anti-Bias Committee, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County  
Hon. John E. H. Stackhouse and Ross Upshaw, Chairs  
New York County Clerk's Office, Hon. Norman Goodman, County Clerk***

---





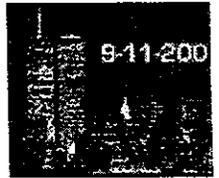
June 19, 2006



FreeConferenceCall.com

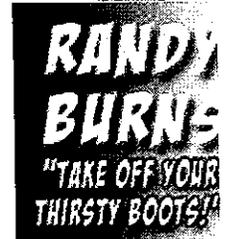
Free Unlimited - 96 Caller Reservationless Conferencing

LinkExchange



Never Forgotten

Richard Schiff  
Richard Schiff  
Richard Schiff  
Richard Schiff  
Richard Schiff



FRONT PAGE

PAGE TWO

EDITORIAL

COLUMNS

LETTERS

MOVIES

ON VIDEO

GAME ROOM

COMICS

ENTERTAINMENT

SPORTS

BOOK REVIEWS

FREE E-MAIL

CLASSIFIEDS

SHOPPING

VILLAGE SHOPS

EATERIES

HISTORY

MEDIA KIT

SEARCH



By Donna Lamb

## Courthouse Celebrates "Unity in Diversity"

When most of us think of the courthouse at 60 Centre Street in lower Manhattan, it conjures up less-than-thrilling images of such things as filing legal papers, jury duty, and trials. Not so on a recent Friday. Between 12:15 PM and 2:15 PM, as soon as you entered the building you were greeted by the pleasing sounds of music, talk, and laughter and the mouthwatering aroma of delicious food, all emanating from the rotunda.



The occasion was the third annual "Celebrating Unity in Diversity," organized by the Anti-bias Committee of the New York State Supreme Court and the New York County Clerk's Office. It got off to a rousing start with a presentation by the New York State Court's Pipe and Drum Band, all of whom looked really spiffy in their kilts as they performed traditional songs that accented themes of harmony, equality, diversity, and togetherness.

Next, the Honorable Jacqueline Silbermann, the



Gjlford  
Video  
COMPLETE TO DVD  
WEDDINGS - TV SPOT  
NY-NJ

**HOMELES BLUES!**  
Recorded by  
The  
Backhouse  
Bluesers®  
1988 at  
Coyote Studios  
Brooklyn NY

Place  
Your  
Ad Here!

Chief Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court - Civil Part, graciously welcomed everyone and thanked the organizers for their excellent job in putting the event together. She then introduced what they've dubbed the "Courthouse Vocalists" from the recent talent show, Erma Dine Worsley, Sydorna Sherrod, Terrell Lane, and Louise Nicholas, who sang "What a Wonderful World" and led everyone in a sing-along of "America the Beautiful."



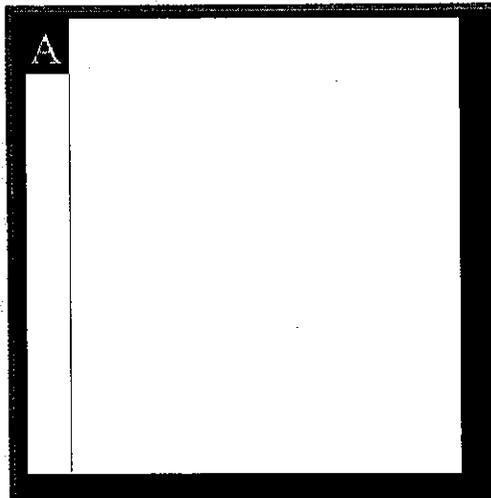
Then it was officially lunchtime. Everyone began eagerly filling their plates from the tables laden with scrumptious food representing the different cultures and backgrounds of the people working at the courthouse. The sponsoring organizations included the Asian American Bar Association of New York, the Korean American Lawyers Association, and the Brehon (Irish) Law Society as well as the Jewish Lawyers Guild, the Protestant Lawyers Association and the Gay-Straight Alliance of the New York State Courts. Such organizations as the New York City Chapter of the Association of Secretaries to Supreme Court Justices, the Association of Surrogates and Supreme Court Reporters, the National Employment Lawyers Association, and the New York Women's Bar Association also served up abundant goodies representing their diverse members.



As Ross Upshaw, Chief Court Reporter of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and Co-Chair of the Anti-bias Committee, stated, the reason they hold this festivity each year is to open people up and give them a chance to experience other people's cultures. "There are so many people from different backgrounds who work here in this courthouse," he stated. "But often we don't get a chance to meet, or, when we do, we're rushing in and out and don't have time for fellowship.

This gives us that opportunity."

ADVERTISEMENT



The other Co-Chair of the Anti-bias Committee, Judge John Stackhouse, commented, "We all work hard together, so it's great to also have some fun together. It builds friendships, and it just gets better every year."

Among the thirty plus organizations co-sponsoring the event was the Metropolitan Black Bar Association (MBBA), a 22-year-old association that came into being when the Harlem Lawyers



Association and the Bedford Stuyvesant Lawyers Association merged. As the organization's President, Nadine Johnson, explained, the MBBA is comprised mostly of Black attorneys from this country and from the Caribbean and Africa. Their purpose is 1) to advance equality and excellence in the pursuit of justice, 2) assist with the progress of Blacks and other people of color in the profession, 3) address legal issues affecting the citywide community, and 4) encourage the personal and professional development of young lawyers and law students.

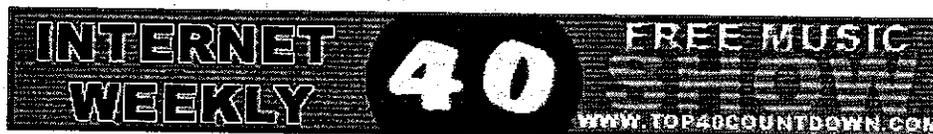
Joining Johnson was MBBA Special Assistant, Charmaine Goulbourne, who is originally from Jamaica. She spoke of the need they see to make sure that everyone gets fair legal representation. "We want our Caribbean brothers and sisters to know about the MBBA and to know that that they can get assistance even if they don't have a large amount of money," she said. "If they have any legal problem, we're always here to help. We will either have someone who can represent them or we will refer them to someone else who can."



Pointing to the value she sees in this annual celebration of "Unity in Diversity," MBBA Office Manager Rosalind Quay said that she believes these events have an excellent outcome because they promote continuing diversity in the legal profession. And, seeing that there are many people who attend the festivity who don't work at the courthouse, she noted, "These gatherings are also an excellent way to help the general public find out about organizations such as ours that exist to assist them."

Read more of Donna's articles at  
<http://www.donnalamb.com/>

Read Donna's Last Column



The Internet Weekly Top 40 Countdown!

Send questions and comments to  
[editor@new1.com](mailto:editor@new1.com)

powered by

To ADVERTISE in the Gazette click here  
Greenwich Village Gazette Privacy Statement  
Copyright © 2005 Greenwich Village Gazette. All  
Rights Reserved.

***In Celebration of  
Women's History Month***

***Honoring the Women Judges of our Court  
who became  
NEW YORK STATE APPELLATE JUDGES***

**Tuesday, March 6, 2007  
12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
60 Centre Street, Rotunda**

***Introductions and Remarks  
Hon. Judith S. Kaye  
Chief Judge, New York Court of Appeals***

***Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin  
Former Presiding Justice Appellate Division, First Department***

**Honorees**

***Hon. Myriam Altman (Posthumously)  
Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick  
Hon. Helen E. Freedman  
Hon. Phyllis Gangel-Jacob  
Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler  
Hon. Kristin Booth Glen  
Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli  
Hon. Edith I. Miller (Posthumously)***

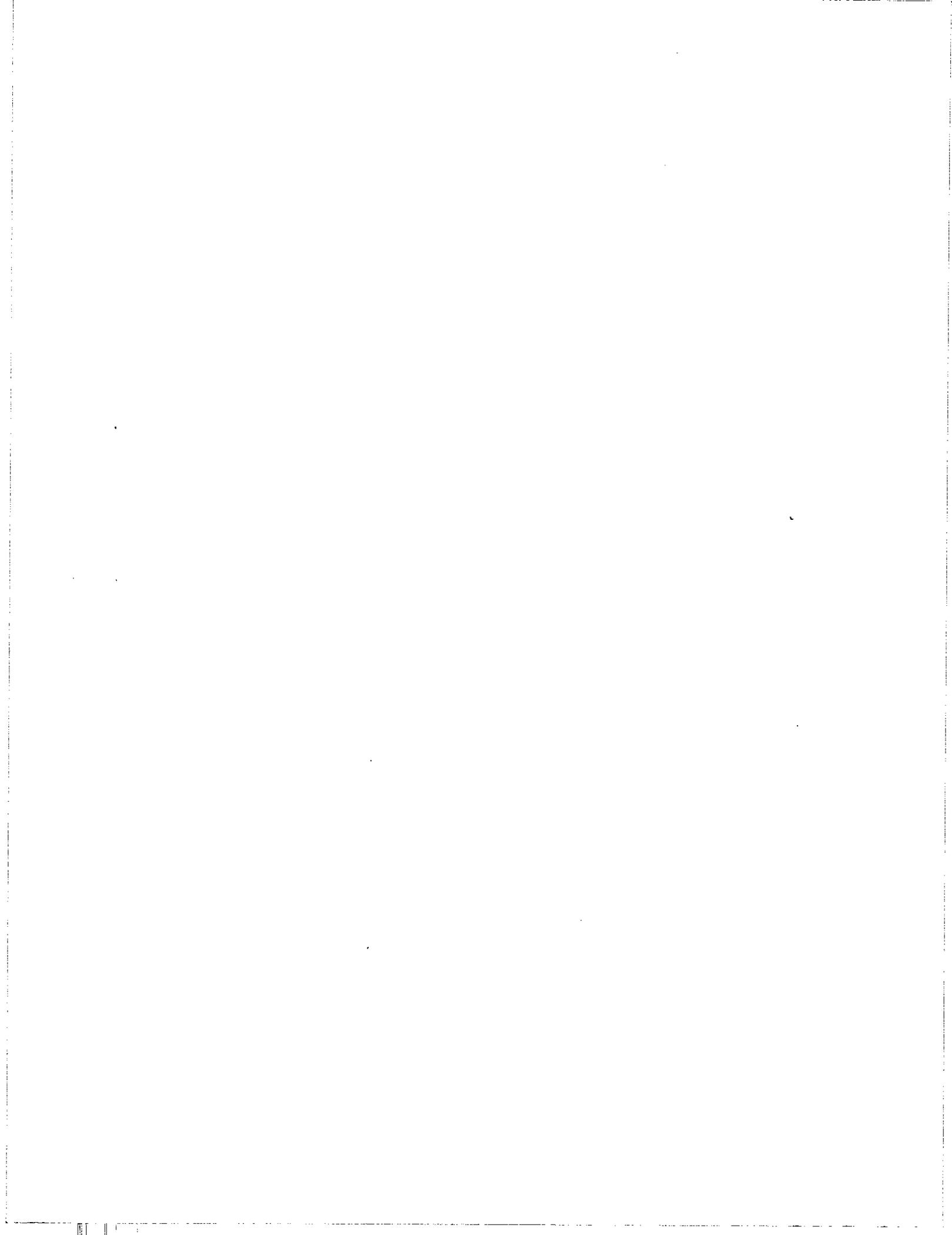
**Light Refreshments will be served**

**The Anti-Bias Committee, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County  
Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse and Ross Upshaw, Chairs  
New York County Clerk's Office, Hon. Norman Goodman, County Clerk**



*Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District*

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



## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

**Name of the Committee:** Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District

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

Justice Richard Lee Price  
851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451  
Tel. # 718-590-3590  
Fax # 718-590-4824  
e-mail: rprice@courts.state.ny.us

**No. Members** 50 **No. of Meetings** 10 **Average Attendance** 20 **Use of Video Conferencing?** None

**Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.):** The composition of the Committee includes: Judges, Court Attorneys, Court Clerks, Court Officers, Court Reporters, Stenographers, custodial employees, and other personnel from the various courts in the Bronx, as well as the County Clerk's Office, Borough President's Office, Bronx Bar Association, the Bronx District Attorney's Office, The Legal Aid Society, The Bronx Defenders, social services advocates, local shelters and The Inspector General's Office.

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006: *a) National Domestic Violence Awareness Month - "Work Place Education Day" (October 26, 2006): "... Voices of Women."* The event was co-sponsored by: Association of Black Women Attorneys, Black Bar Association of Bronx County, Bronx County Bar Association, Bronx Borough President, Bronx County Clerk, Bronx Women's Bar Association, Columbia Society Inc., Gender Fairness Committee of Bronx Family Court, Hispanic Court Officers' Society, Law-Related Education Committee, New York County Lawyers' Association, 161st Street Merchants Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Bronx Civil Court, Bronx Criminal Court, Bronx Family Court, Bronx Surrogate's Court, Tribune Society. Approximately 100 people attended this program. We had two presenters. Susan Lob, Director of The Voices of Women Organizing Project (VOW) who made a short presentation about her program. She was accompanied by a female survivor who presented her experiences as an abused wife and mother and then related her experiences in dealing with the courts. Justice La Tia W. Martin helped balance the program by presenting the courts perspective on the issue. The feedback on the program, was extremely favorable and well-balanced.

An event flyer was forwarded to the New York Daily News, New York Post, The New York Times, New York Law Journal, The Bronx News, Bronx Times Reporter, NY1, and News Channel 12.

*See flyer annexed hereto.*

**Activities for Women's History Month 2006 or planned for 2007:**

*Women's History Month Program April 6, 2006*

Honorees:

-Hon. Catherine O'Hagen-Wolfe, Clerk of Court, Appellate Division First Dept.

-Hon. Fern Fisher, Administrative Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York

-Lillian Roberts, Executive Director, D.C. 37

“ComMENdable,” Persons Awards:

-Hon. Robert Johnson,

-Hon. Jonathan Lippman

“Evolve Award”\* - \*New award for outstanding female middle and high school students who have demonstrated a unique ability to rise above daunting circumstances in their young lives.

“Women of Distinction” certificates were given to approximately 10 court/building employees.

An event flyer was forwarded to the New York Daily News, New York Post, The New York Times, New York Law Journal, The Bronx News, Bronx Times Reporter, NY1, and News Channel 12.

*See flyer annexed hereto.*

*Women’s History Month Program 2007: Proposed date March 22, 2007.*

**Other Activities in the Past Year:**

**FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE:** Due to a decision from OCA we are not able to have food and clothing drives until further notice. Hopefully by the next statewide meeting we can revisit and resolve this issue.

**Lunch Programs:**

**-GENDER FAIRNESS ON FILM SERIES:** Our second season kicked off on March 8, 2006 with the CNN film The Unholy War (which gave a further update of the issues in Afghanistan) followed by Mad, Hot Ballroom (5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls from the Bronx who learn how to ballroom dance and then compete in a citywide competition), Women’s Place (outstanding women with non-traditional careers), The Day My God Died (trafficking of women), Iron Jawed Angels (Women’s Suffrage) Each film presentation was lead by a moderator and in some cases included a guest speaker, followed by audience discussion.

**-MEET THE AUTHOR:** We had a wonderful day with our Mary Higgins Clark event on May 23, 2006. The program began with a “meet and greet” and light lunch with Ms. Higgins Clark and the Administrative Judges. In the Ceremonial Courtroom she received a citation from the Bronx Borough President’s office and thereafter gave an insightful speech about growing up in the Bronx plus related the process of how she became such a successful author. After her presentation the Bronx County Bar Association hosted a very successful book-signing for her latest novel “Two Little Girls In Blue.”

*See flyers annexed hereto.*

**Plans for next year:**

Our *tentative plans for next year* include: The Women's History Month Program expanding on our new Evolve Awards, dedicated to outstanding young women students; Domestic Violence Programs, Gender Fairness on Film Series, Meet the Author and possible fashion show.

**What are your committee's most important strengths?**

Our Committee's most important strengths comes from the diversity of our membership who come from such a variety of organizations and positions. Because of this diversity we are able to gather insight into the various positions that women hold in the court system and then gain a better understanding of the issues which may occasionally confront them. We also believe that this diversity gives us a better understanding when developing events.

**What are your committee's biggest impediments?**

Our Committee's biggest impediment is that although we have ideas and plans for so many more programs we have time limitations because of our volunteers' schedules and court schedules.

Additional impediments consist of the following: 1) the difficulty to publicize events since our courthouses are in so many different locations, 2) posted flyers continuously get torn down, 3) no central publicity office to circulate our announcement materials. We are always trying to figure out new and better ways to publicize our programs.

Please note that a major recent disappointment is the restrictions that have recently been placed on us to provide food, clothing, toys and books to women/children in shelters. The Office of Court Administration has unfortunately determined that we are not allowed to conduct any more drives. Drives for court personnel are permissible but not permitted for organizations or charities.

**What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?**

I have learned that the more involvement - the greater the idea base and volunteer base - Bringing different groups to the attention of the members adds to our individual knowledge base.

My priority has always been to address gender issues immediately. I remind my committee members at every meeting that the Gender Fairness Committee is open to any types of complaints, may they be major or minor. If the issue is brought to our attention we try to nip it in the bud before it becomes a major issue and a formal complaint. I also state that issues can be handled confidentially.

**What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?**

The NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts certainly provides ideas and program suggestions for our review and implementation. The recognition that each committee receives is a strong part of what we receive from the statewide Judicial committee. It would be helpful if the committee could provide us with a budget for our programs.

**What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?**

I feel that whenever a local committee in the same or adjoining Judicial District puts on a program all other local committees should receive notice of the same.

TO:--- HON. RICHARD L. PRICE  
CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
12<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FROM:— EARNESTINE GLOVER  
CHAIR, WOMEN HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2006

Co-chairs: Josephine M. Bastone, Esq., & Sherry Callwood

Members: Tania Antero, Helen Corporan, Pat Cupples, Hon. Laura  
Douglas, Hon. Wilma Guzman, Saundra Jefferson Hon. Donna Mills, Tracy Pardo, Maria  
Rivero Esq., Hon. Gayle Roberts, Emily Sanchez, Bonnie Schnapper, Michelle A.K. Smith, Esq.,  
Hon. Alison Y. Tuitt, Hon. Darcel Clark, Damon Garrison, & Karen Saab- Dominguez, Esq.

The Gender Fairness Committee in the Twelfth Judicial District has reached several goals and we continue to strive higher to meet the needs of our peers and the Bronx Community.

We started this year's program with the invocation by S.C. O. Damon Garrison, the National Anthem song by Mr Frank Palombo formerly with the Bronx Borough President's office. Again the support and presence of our Administrative Judges was there, with the opening and welcome remarks.

The moderator Mrs. Bonnie Schnapper, Secretary to Judge Richard L. Price, did a wonderful job. This District is blessed with very talented, hard working members. .Com -MEN-dable person awards went to the Hon. Robert T., Johnson, District Attorney, Bronx County and the Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Chief Administrative Judge NYS, Unified Court System.

The Women Honorees for this year are the Hon. Fern A. Fisher, Administrative Judge for the Civil Court of the city of New York, Hon. Lillian Roberts, Executive Director, District Council 37, and Hon. Catherine O'Hagan Wolf, Clerk of Court, Appellate Division.

The committee also voted to add another category to our honorees this would be our young ladies in junior and high school for recognition in overcoming obstacles that may have happened in their young lives. This would be called the EVOLVE AWARD. E -for Exceptional, V-for Visionary, O- for optimistic, L-for leadership, V-for Volunteerism, and E- for Education. All of these young ladies fit that category and more. They were Ms. Mercedes Olena Andrews, Ms. Kalea Davis, Ms. Geneva Johnson, Ms. Kimberly Luna and Ms. Violet Richardson.

The Women of Distinction Certificates as always was a great success. Please note the names of these eight exceptional women in the program attached. A good time was had by all. The lunch prepared by the Yankee Tavern was served and enjoyed. Closing remarks given by the Hon. Richard L. Price

**Women's History Month  
Program Committee Members**

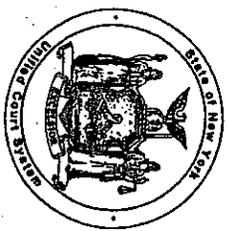
HON. EARNESTINE GLOVER, CHAIR  
JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ., CO-CHAIR  
MS. SHERRY CALLWOOD, CO-CHAIR

MS. TANIA ANTERO  
HON DARGELL CLARK  
HON. HELEN CORPORAN  
MS. PAT CUPPLES  
HON. LAURA DOUGLAS  
S.C.O. DAMON GARRISON  
HON. WILMA GUZMAN  
S.C.O. SAUNDRA JEFFERSON  
HON. DONNA MILLS  
JUSTINE OLDERMAN, ESQ.  
HON. TRACY PARDO  
MARIA RIVERO, ESQ.  
HON. GAYLE P. ROBERTS  
KAREN SAAB-DOMINGUEZ, ESQ.  
MS. EMILY SANCHEZ  
MS. BONNIE SCHNAPPER  
MICHELLE A.K. SMITH, ESQ.  
HON. ALISON Y. TUTT

**PROGRAM CO-SPONSORS**

- Billy's Sports Bar Restaurant • Black Bar Association of Bronx County • Bronx Borough President • Bronx County Bar Association • Bronx County Clerk • Bronx Women's Bar Association • Concourse Card Shop • Court Attorneys Association of the City of New York • Court Discount • The Cervantes Society, Inc. • Crown Donuts • D & J Variety Store • Feeding Tree Restaurant • Jeff Prescription Center • Loria Corporation • New York State Court Clerks Association • New York State Court Officers' Association • New York State Supreme Court Officers' Association • Supreme Gourmet Deli • The Tribune Society, Inc. • Yankee Tavern • 161<sup>st</sup> Street Merchants Association •

State of New York  
Unified Court System



**THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
FOR THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

HONORABLE JOHN P. COLLINS  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIVISION  
HONORABLE BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CIVIL TERM  
HONORABLE RICHARD LEE PRICE  
CHAIR

In Cooperation with

The Bronx Women's Bar Association  
Veronica Mandell, President

*proudly presents the annual*

*Women's History Month  
Celebration*

**Program**

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006 - 12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.  
VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT  
851 GRAND CONCOURSE  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

# 2006 Women's History Month

## INVOCATION

S.C.O. Damon Garrison

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Frank Palombo

## OPENING REMARKS

Hon. John P. Collins

Hon. Barry Salman

••

Ms. Bonnie Schnapper

Moderator

## Com-MEN-able Person Awards

HON. ROBERT T. JOHNSON

District Attorney

County of the Bronx

HON. JONATHAN LIPPMAN

Chief Administrative Judge

N.Y.S. Unified Court System

••

## 2006 Women's History Month Honorees

HON. FERN A. FISHER

Administrative Judge for the Civil Court of the City of  
New York

New York State Unified Court System

HON. LILLIAN ROBERTS

Executive Director, District Council 37

American Federation of State, County & Municipal

Employees, AFL-CIO

HON. CATHERINE O'HAGAN WOLFE

Clerk of Court

New York State Supreme Court

Appellate Division, First Department

••

## Exceptional, Visionary, Optimistic, Leadership,

## Volunteerism, & Education Awards

Mercedes Olena Andrews

Geneva Johnson

Violet Richardson

••

Kalea Davis

Kimberly Luna

## "Women Of Distinction" Certificates

Margaret Beirne

Juanita Cepero

Marisol Lebron

Jackie Royall

••

Ruth Bowen

Roselyn Johnson

Nilsa Moreno

Nancy Zachareas †

## CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Richard Lee Price

••

† - posthumous

**THE BRONX COUNTY  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

**HONORABLE JOHN P. COLLINS,  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIVISION  
HONORABLE BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CIVIL TERM  
HONORABLE RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR**



- presents the annual program for -

# Women's History Month

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006  
12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.  
VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT

## Honorees

**HON. FERN FISHER**  
Administrative Judge for the Civil Court  
of the City of New York  
New York State Unified Court System

**HON. LILLIAN ROBERTS**  
Executive Director, District Council 37  
American Federation of State, County & Municipal  
Employees, AFL-CIO

**HON. CATHERINE O'HAGAN WOLFE**  
Clerk of Court  
Appellate Division, First Department

## Com-MEN-dable Persons

**HON. ROBERT T. JOHNSON**  
District Attorney  
County of the Bronx

**HON. JONATHAN LIPPMAN**  
Chief Administrative Judge  
N.Y.S. Unified Court System

&

*"Women Of Distinction" Certificates will be presented to notable women, and the*

**"E V O L V E" Students' Award**

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to  
Earnestine Glover (718) 590-3961, or Josephine M. Bastone (718) 590-3758, or Bonnie Schnapper (718) 590-3590



TO: HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ., CHAIR   
FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2007

RE: (2006) YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

The Food and Clothing Drive Subcommittee was formed in 1997 to assist in alleviating the many pressures faced by victims of domestic violence and homelessness in Bronx County. Eleven years ago, I began identifying potential beneficiaries for our drives by making telephone calls to agencies found through the phone book and by following up on suggestions made by committee members and Courthouse personnel. Throughout the years, the committee has continually requested that agencies aiding those in need in Bronx County be brought to our attention.

Our committee has been fortunate in being able to reach out to many welcoming recipients, including those which provide transitional housing, job training, parenting skills, safe house for victims of domestic abuse, etc., such as Theresa's Haven; Thorpe Family Residence; Sarah Burke House; RAIN, Inc.; Cardinal McCloskey Services, Love Gospel Assembly; etc.

The drives have been welcomed by our fellow court employees. I, on behalf of the committee, have received many favourable comments concerning the good work we do. Many of our co-workers have told me that, if not for the convenience of work-site drives, they would throw into the trash their gently-used garments that, instead, were now going to clothe needy children, women, and men.

Indeed, our June 12<sup>th</sup> - 19th, 2006 drive for the benefit of Theresa's Haven, an

organization that provides transitional housing, training, etc. to victims of domestic violence and homelessness, was very successful. We collected **OVER ONE HUNDRED** (100) bags of items at our drop-off sites in the following buildings: Supreme Court, Criminal Court, Family Court, Housing Court, and the District Attorney's building. The donations were gladly received by the beneficiaries.

Unfortunately, while this drive was underway, we received a photocopy of the May 10, 2006 memo from Michael Colodner, Counsel to the Unified Court System to Judge Ellerin, which states, in pertinent part:

The only court-sponsored charitable solicitations permitted by the court system other than through the SEFA appeal have been in a few limited instances where the recipients of the funds were court employees themselves....For the most part, the court system has taken the position that solicitation for purposes other than for court employees cannot be permitted....

Upon receipt of the memo, I contacted Mr. Colodner. This prohibition applies to all: neither the Gender Fairness Committee, bar associations, individuals, charitable organizations, etc. may solicit for the benefit of outside agencies, etc.

Because of the prohibition, we were not able to hold our traditional October drive. I have received numerous telephone calls from Court personnel asking when the drives will be reinstated. My only option, upon being asked, was to refer those inquiring to nearby agencies where they could deliver their unwanted clothing, toys, books, and, in one case, a roomful of furniture. Sadly, some of those inquiring told me that, rather than taking their unwanted items to a shelter or other agency, they would simply throw them out.

I would hope that this policy issue would be re-visited. I have not received any notification that the prohibition has been lifted, although, as discussed at full Gender Fairness committee meetings, drives have recently been held in the building by bar associations, unions, etc. Indeed, you recently forwarded to me a photocopy of a newspaper article about a clothing drive held in another courthouse. Do you know if a change has been made to the policy of which I have not been made aware? If so, kindly forward a copy of the policy change to me - - our fellow employees are anxious to clean out their closets!

**THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

**- ANNOUNCES -**

**A FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE  
TO BENEFIT THERESA'S HAVEN**

**DATES: JUNE 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, AND 19, 2006**

**DROP OFF SITES: SUPREME COURT - ('A' ELEVATOR) 6M DESK  
CRIMINAL COURT - ROOM 1-11  
FAMILY COURT - ROOM 8-D5  
HOUSING COURT - 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR STAFF LOUNGE  
DA' S OFFICE, 198 E. 161 ST., RM 941(RECEPTION AREA)**

**WHAT: CANNED FOOD GOODS, INCLUDING BABY FOOD  
(CLEAN) USED OR NEW ADULT CLOTHING  
(INCLUDING WOMEN'S BUSINESS ATTIRE)  
(CLEAN) USED OR NEW CHILDREN'S CLOTHING  
CHILDREN'S TOYS, BOOKS, DISPOSABLE DIAPERS  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS, LINEN**

**WHO: THERESA'S HAVEN is a transitional housing facility, providing  
housing, education, and other needed assistance.**

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.  
FOR INFORMATION IN EACH BUILDING, CONTACT:**

<b>SUPREME COURT:</b>	<b>JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 3758</b>
<b>CRIMINAL COURT:</b>	<b>CATHY HARLEY</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 2858</b>
<b>FAMILY COURT:</b>	<b>RHONDA YOUNG</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 3336</b>
<b>DISTRICT ATTORNEY BLDG.:</b>	<b>MARIA RIVERO, ESQ.</b>	<b>(718) 590 - 2258</b>
<b>HOUSING COURT:</b>	<b>GLADYS MALDONADO</b>	<b>(718) 466 - 3022</b>

TO:----- HON. RICHARD L. PRICE  
CHAIR GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
12<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FROM:-- EARNESTINE GLOVER  
CHAIR: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY OCTOBER 26, 2006  
Co- Chairs , Josephine M. Bastone Esq., Tania Antero,  
MEMBERS: Madeline Biglow, Helen Corporan, Pat Cupples, Hon. Laura  
Douglas, Darlene Dove, Hon. Wilma Guzman, Saundra Jefferson, Susan McPartland,  
Tracy Pardo, Maria Rivero Esq. , Emily Sanchez & Michelle M. K. Smith Esq.

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month the 12th Judicial District's program was educational and entertaining.

The opening was a reading by sister Barbara A. Lenniger, the Executive Director of Thorpe Family Residence. She included in her talks some of the wonderful and rewarding experiences she has received over the many years she has worked with families in up and down situations.

Welcome and opening remarks were done by our Administrative Judges and as always we received their full support. The moderator of this years program was Mrs. Emily Sanchez who did a terrific job in moving the program along and also the personal touch she gave in the introduction of our guests.

The speakers were Ms. Susan Loeb, Director of the Battered Women Resource Center, Voices Of Women Organizing Project. Ms Loeb spoke of the many negative experiences the women that are a part of the center shared in the New York courts. She talked about the changes that her organization advocates and is lobbying the courts and others to have them implemented. Ms. Loeb also brought along one of the members of the center to talk about her experiences in the court.

We on the committee believe in freedom of speech, but we felt we needed to have someone share with our peers and guests the changes that has been made and what we believe is the function of the court. The Hon La Tia Martin was that person and she did it with compassion, professionalism, objectivity, and the law.

Closing was done by the Hon. Richard L. Price and lunch was served

Supreme Court  
Of the  
State of New York



HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
Chair

**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451**

In recognition of

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
Administrative Judges

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
presents its annual program for

**"WORK PLACE EDUCATION DAY"**

**"...VOICES OF WOMEN"**

**Thursday, October 26, 2006**

**12:30 to 2:00 P.M.**

**Courtroom 711**

**PRESENTERS**

\* BATTERED WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER: VOICES OF WOMEN ORGANIZING  
PROJECT - FEATURING MS. SUSAN LOB, DIRECTOR

\*HON. LA TIA W. MARTIN - SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF  
NEW YORK - BRONX COUNTY

*Lunch Will Be Served*

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to:  
Earnestine Glover @ 718-590-3961 or Josephine M. Bastone @ 718-590-3758  
Bonnie Schnapper @ 718-590-3590

**APPROVED**

**TRACY PARDO  
CHIEF CLERK**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tania Antero  
Josephine M. Bastone  
Hon. Peggy Bernheim  
J. Mark Bodde  
Sherry Callwood  
Phyllis Cherebin  
Hon. Darcel Clark  
Steven B. Clark  
Helen Corporan  
Maria Cortese  
Pat Cupples  
Hon. Tandra Dawson  
Donna Dodds  
Hon. Marian Doherty  
Hon. Laura Douglas  
Darlene Dove  
Sheila Feinerman  
Hon. Anita Florio  
Raymond Franklin  
Damon Garrison  
Earnestine Glover  
Hon. Wilma Guzman  
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn  
Saundra Jefferson  
Esther Kelly  
Hon. Sallie Manzanet  
Hon. La Tia W. Martin  
Susan McPartland  
Deidra Moore  
John E. Murray  
Hon. Barbara Newman  
Justine Olderman  
Bernadette O'Rourke  
Tracy Pardo  
Charlene Pulakos  
Kevin J. Quaranta  
Maria Rivero  
Hon. Gayle P. Roberts  
Anthony Robinson  
Sharon T. Rosenthal  
Hon. Norma Ruiz  
Karen Saab-Dominguez  
Emily Sanchez  
Bonnie Schnapper  
Michelle A.K. Smith  
Hon. Alison Y. Tuitt  
Ann Wilson



**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**  
**For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451

*In recognition of*

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
Chair

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
Administrative Judges

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Tania Antero  
Josephine M. Bastone  
Hon. Peggy Bernheim  
J. Mark Bodde  
Sherry Callwood  
Phyllis Cherebin  
Hon. Darcel Clark  
Steven B. Clark  
Helen Corporan  
Maria Cortese  
Pat Cupples  
Hon. Tandra Dawson  
Donna Dodds  
Hon. Marian Doherty  
Hon. Laura Douglas  
Darlene Dove  
Sheila Feinerman  
Hon. Anita Florio  
Raymond Franklin  
Damon Garrison  
Earnestine Glover  
Hon. Wilma Guzman  
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn  
Saundra Jefferson  
Esther Kelly  
Hon. Sallie Manzanet  
Hon. La Tia W. Martin  
Susan McPartland  
Deidra Moore  
John E. Murray  
Hon. Barbara Newman  
Bernadette O'Rourke  
Tracy Pardo  
Charlene Pulakos  
Kevin J. Quaranta  
Maria Rivero  
Hon. Gayle P. Roberts  
Anthony Robinson  
Sharon T. Rosenthal  
Hon. Norma Ruiz  
Karen Saab-Dominguez  
Emily Sanchez  
Bonnie Schnapper  
Michelle A.K. Smith  
Hon. Alison Y. Tuitt  
Ann Wilson

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
presents its annual program for

**"Work Place Education Day"**

Thursday, October 26, 2006  
12:30 to 2:00 p.m.  
Courtroom 711

Opening:.....Sister Barbara A. Lenniger  
Executive Director  
Thorpe Family Residence

Welcome & Opening Remarks:.....HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
Administrative Judges

**"...VOICES OF WOMEN"**

Moderator:.....Emily Sanchez

Presenters: \*BATTERED WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER: VOICES OF WOMEN ORGANIZING  
PROJECT - FEATURING MS. SUSAN LOB, DIRECTOR

\*HON. LA TIA W. MARTIN - SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF  
NEW YORK - BRONX COUNTY

Closing Remarks:..... HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, J.S.C.  
Chair, Gender Fairness Committee

Program Co-Sponsors

- \*Association of Black Women Attorneys \* Black Bar Association of Bronx County \* Bronx County Bar Association
- \*Bronx Borough President \*Bronx County Clerk \*Bronx Women's Bar Association
- \*Columbia Society Inc. \*Gender Fairness Committee of Bronx Family Court \*Hispanic Court Officers' Society
- \*Law-Related Education Committee, New York County Lawyers' Association
- \*161st Street Merchants Association\*Puerto Rican Bar Association
- \*Bronx Civil Court \*Bronx Criminal Court \*Bronx Family Court \*Bronx Surrogate's Court \*Tribune Society

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451**

January 31, 2007

TO: Sub-Committee on Women's History Month Program  
FROM: Emily Sanchez  
RE: Minutes of Thursday, January 25, 2007

---

PRESENT: Hon. Richard Lee Price, Josephine Bastone, Esq., Darlene Dove, Damon Garrison, Hon. Earnestine Glover, Hon. Wilma Guzman, Emily Sanchez

---

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Two dates are under consideration for the program (Wednesday, March 21 and Thursday, March 22), and Chair Earnestine Glover having ascertained that the Rotunda is available on both dates, the committee is leaning toward Thursday, March 22, but the final vote will be taken at the meeting of January 31.

Ideas for a different format were invited. Committee members were given until the following week's meeting to make a final decision. Traditionally, we have honored women of achievement and distinctive women in the courthouse community. Three years ago, we introduced the Com-MEN-dable Person category, to honor men who have contributed to benefit women; and last year, we introduced a new category: the EVOLVE Award, to honor young ladies - - students who have achieved, who have overcome adversity or who are involved in extra-curricular activity and/or volunteerism for the benefit of school and community.

The committee also discussed the number of individuals to be honored in each category, which will also be voted upon at the next meeting. The recommendations break down into the following: (1) 2 women, 1 man, 3 young ladies; (2) 3 women, 1 man, 2 young ladies; or (3) 2 women, 1 man, 2 young ladies.

Judge Price queried whether a letter should be sent to Sen. Hillary Clinton this year

since she had announced her candidacy for President. The consensus of the committee is that he should.

Chair Earnestine Glover said that she would e-mail the entire committee on the issues before it so that the members may come ready to vote on January 31.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Sanchez

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451**

February 8, 2007

TO: Sub-Committee on Women's History Month Program  
FROM: Emily Sanchez  
RE: Minutes of Wednesday, January 31, 2007

---

PRESENT: Hon. Richard Lee Price, Josephine Bastone, Esq., Sherry Callwood, Hon. Earnestine Glover, Emily Sanchez, Bonnie Schnapper

---

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Of the two dates under consideration for the program (Wednesday, March 21 and Thursday, March 22), the committee voted for March 22, and Chair Earnestine Glover informed us that the Rotunda is available on that date.

The format will remain the same as last year's. The committee voted for the following configuration: 3 Women of Achievement, 1 man in the Com-MEN-dable Person category, 2 young ladies for the EVOLVE Award, and no more than ten distinctive women of the courthouse community.

Judge Price reported that a letter would be sent to Sen. Hillary Clinton immediately.

Initial nominations were taken. For Women of Achievement: Joyce Hartsfield, President, Bronx County Bar Association; Elaine Brennan, Vice President, Montefiore Medical Center; Dr. Nieca Goldberg, heart surgeon.

For Women of Distinction: Mary Conlan, Executive Director, Bronx County Bar Association.

A recommendation was made that the Hon. Peggy Bernheim, having been a

member of the Gender Fairness Committee, be honored at this year's program. To be discussed further is whether the entire program should be dedicated to her, or in what manner she is to be honored.

The food, to be ordered from Yankee Tavern, will be handled by Josephine Bastone and Earnestine Glover. Co-sponsors in the neighborhood are to be visited by Darlene Dove and Emily Sanchez.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Sanchez

**THE BRONX COUNTY  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

HONORABLE JOHN P. COLLINS,  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIVISION  
HONORABLE BARRY SALMAN,  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CIVIL TERM  
HONORABLE RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE**

# Women's History Month

**THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007**

**12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.**

**VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL**

**BRONX SUPREME COURT**

***Women of Achievement***

**Com-MEN-dable Persons**

***Evolve Award\****

**"Women Of Distinction"**

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE**

\*outstanding women students



## THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

PROUDLY PRESENTS

*Women's History Month*

*The Gender Fairness on Film Series*

*The CNN Presentation of*

***“The Unholy War”***

*Life Inside Afghanistan after the Taliban. The Director of “Beneath the Veil” shows how the changed international situation has affected the country.*

Following the screening there will be a discussion on the plight of the Afghan people.

### Guest Speakers

Esther Hyneman & Humeira Faiz  
from the organization  
***Women For Afghan Women***

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2006  
Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Bronx Supreme Court, Courtroom 621

(Bring your Lunch)

**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

*The Gender Fairness Issues on Film Series '06 (Season II)*

**Film**

**Presentation Date**

The Unholy War - CNN

March 8 (Wed.)

The Day My God Died

March 21 (Tues.)

Mad, Hot, Ballroom

April 11 (Tues.)

April 12 (Wed.)

Women's Place

April 25 (Tues.)

Iron Jawed Angels

May 10 (Wed.)

**Events**

Mary Higgins Clark

May 23 (Tues.)



**THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

**PROUDLY PRESENTS**

*Women's History Month*

*The Gender Fairness on Film Series*

***“The Day My God Died”***

***A Heart-Wrenching Documentary on the International Sex  
Trafficking of Young Women and Children***

Following the screening there will be a discussion.

Guest Speaker: Denise Scotto, Esq.  
Vice-Chair, N.G.O. Committee on the Status of Women

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2006  
Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Bronx Supreme Court, Courtroom 621

**(Bring your Lunch)**



**THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

*The Gender Fairness on Film Series*

PROUDLY PRESENTS

*“Mad Hot Ballroom”*

**Dates:** April 11, 2006 (Part I)  
April 12, 2006 (Part II)  
**Time:** 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Bronx Supreme Court, Courtroom 621

(Bring your Lunch)



**THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

*The Gender Fairness on Film Series*

PROUDLY PRESENTS

*“A Woman’s Place”*

Film and Discussion

**Dates:** April 25, 2006

**Time:** 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Bronx Supreme Court, Courtroom 507

(Bring your Lunch)



## **THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

*In Association With*

The Office of the Bronx Borough President  
&  
The Bronx County Bar Association

Cordially Invite You to *"Meet the Author"*



Mary Higgins Clark  
Photograph by Bernard Vidal  
No Place Like Home, Simon & Schuster

*Bring Your Lunch & Come Meet One of Our Own Bronx Natives,  
the Accomplished Woman of Letters*

# *Mary Higgins Clark*

Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2006  
Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Bronx Supreme Court  
Ceremonial Courtroom 711  
»» Book-Signing to Follow ««

Please R.S.V.P. to Bonnie Schnapper (718) 590-3590, or Sherry Callwood (718) 590-6125

Copies of Ms. Clark's new novel, "Two Little Girls in Blue" will be available through the Bronx County Bar Association



**THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

*The Gender Fairness on Film  
Series*

PROUDLY PRESENTS

*"Iron Jawed Angels"*

Dates: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 (Part I)  
Wednesday, November 1, 2006 (Part II)

Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Place: Bronx Supreme Court, Courtroom 621

(Bring your Lunch)

*Approved*

  
Steven B. Clark  
Chief Clerk

# THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

HONORABLE JOHN P. COLLINS,  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIVISION  
HONORABLE BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CIVIL TERM  
HONORABLE RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR



- presents the annual program for -

## Women's History Month

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006  
12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT

### Honorees

HON. FERN FISHER  
Administrative Judge for the Civil Court  
of the City of New York  
New York State Unified Court System

HON. LILLIAN ROBERTS  
Executive Director, District Council 37  
American Federation of State, County & Municipal  
Employees, AFL-CIO

HON. CATHERINE O'HAGAN WOLFE  
Clerk of Court  
Appellate Division, First Department

### Com-MEN-dable Persons

HON. ROBERT T. JOHNSON  
District Attorney  
County of the Bronx

HON. JONATHAN LIPPMAN  
Chief Administrative Judge  
N.Y.S. Unified Court System

&

“Women Of Distinction” Certificates will be presented to notable women, and  
the

“E V O L V E” Students’ Award

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to  
Earnestine Glover (718) 590-3961, or Josephine M. Bastone (718) 590-3758, or Bonnie Schnapper

Supreme Court  
Of the  
State of New York



**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**  
**For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451

*In recognition of*

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
Chair

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
Administrative Judges

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
presents its annual program for

**"Work Place Education Day"**

Thursday, October 26, 2006  
12:30 to 2:00 p.m.  
Courtroom 711

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Tania Antero  
Josephine M. Bastone  
Hon. Peggy Bernheim  
J. Mark Bodde  
Sherry Callwood  
Phyllis Cherebin  
Hon. Darcel Clark  
Steven B. Clark  
Helen Corporan  
Maria Cortese  
Pat Cupples  
Hon. Tandra Dawson  
Donna Dodds  
Hon. Marian Doherty  
Hon. Laura Douglas  
Darlene Dove  
Sheila Feinerman  
Hon. Anita Florio  
Raymond Franklin  
Damon Garrison  
Earnestine Glover  
Hon. Wilma Guzman  
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn  
Saundra Jefferson  
Esther Kelly  
Hon. Sallie Manzanet  
Hon. La Tin W. Martin  
Susan McPartland  
Deidra Moore  
John E. Murray  
Hon. Barbara Newman  
Bernadette O'Rourke  
Tracy Pardo  
Charlene Pulakos  
Kevin J. Quaranta  
Maria Rivero  
Hon. Gayle P. Roberts  
Anthony Robinson  
Sharon T. Rosenthal  
Hon. Norma Ruiz  
Karen Saab-Dominguez  
Emily Sanchez  
Bonnie Schnapper  
Michelle A.K. Smith  
Hon. Alison Y. Tuitt  
Ann Wilson

Opening:.....Sister Barbara A. Lenniger  
Executive Director  
Thorpe Family Residence

Welcome & Opening Remarks:.....HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
Administrative Judges

**"...VOICES OF WOMEN"**

Moderator:.....Emily Sanchez

Presenters: \*BATTERED WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER: VOICES OF WOMEN ORGANIZING  
PROJECT - FEATURING MS. SUSAN LOB, DIRECTOR

\*HON. LA TIA W. MARTIN - SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF  
NEW YORK - BRONX COUNTY

Closing Remarks:..... HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, J.S.  
Chair, Gender Fairness Committ

Program Co-Sponsors

- \*Association of Black Women Attorneys \* Black Bar Association of Bronx County \* Bronx County Bar Association
- \*Bronx Borough President \*Bronx County Clerk \*Bronx Women's Bar Association
- \*Columbia Society Inc. \*Gender Fairness Committee of Bronx Family Court \*Hispanic Court Officers' Society
- \*Law-Related Education Committee, New York County Lawyers' Association
- \*161st Street Merchants Association\*Puerto Rican Bar Association
- \*Bronx Civil Court \*Bronx Criminal Court \*Bronx Family Court \*Bronx Surrogate's Court \*Tribune Society



**THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS  
HON. BARRY SALMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

**PROUDLY PRESENTS**

*The Gender Fairness on Film Series*

A RESPECTABLE AND MOVING STORY ABOUT THE  
FUTURE OF ART TO TEACH CHILDREN

# ***Born into Brothels***



**A chronicle which presents the relationships of the children of prostitutes who work India's notorious red light district.**

**Guest Speaker: A.D.A. Karen Saab-Dominguez\***

**Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2007**

**Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Place: Bronx Supreme Court, Courtroom 621**

**\*Following the screening there will be a discussion**

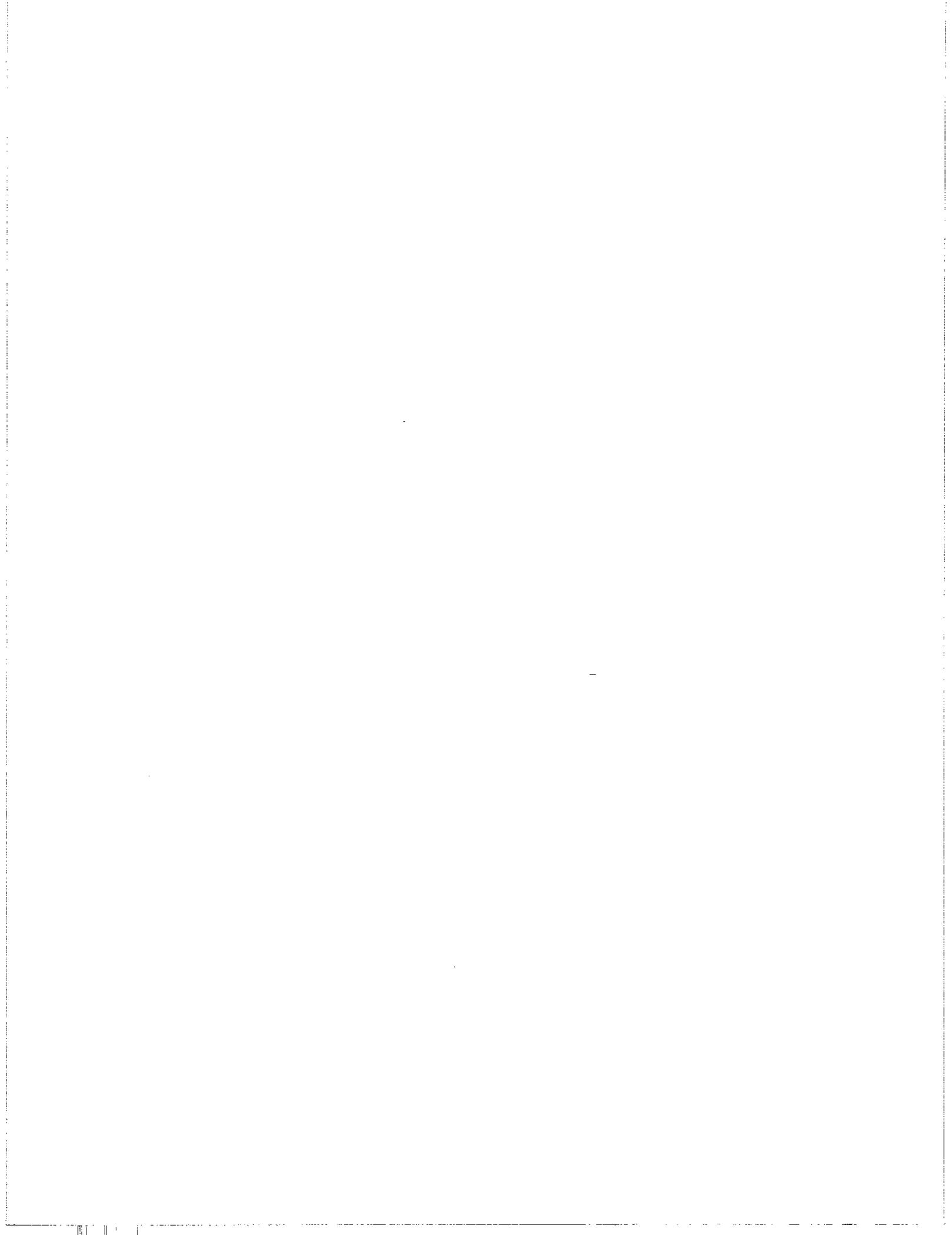
**(Bring your Lunch)**

Program is open to the public



*Queens County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Sheri S. Roman**  
Justice, Supreme Court  
125-01 Queens Blvd.  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415  
718-520-3501



## LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007

Name of the Committee: NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee

Name, Address, Telephone, Fax Number, and E-mail Address of the Chair sroman@courts.state.ny.us

Hon. Sheri S. Roman, 125-01 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, NY 11415 718-298-1441 Fax: 718-520-8247

No. Members 19 No. of Meetings 5 Average Attendance 9 Use of Video Conferencing?

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.) 3 judges, 3 officers, 6 court attorneys/law secretaries, 4 secretaries, 1 court clerk, 1 court reporter, 1 private attorney

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

**Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2006** To support our statewide court initiatives to promote Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Queens County Supreme Court hosted two luncheon programs. The first program, '*An Update on Recent Domestic Violence Laws and A Discussion of the New York City Family Justice Center*', was held on Wednesday, October 25, 2006 from 1:00-2:00 at the Kew Gardens Courthouse. The keynote speaker was Amy Pitcairn Barasch, Esq., Executive Director, New York City Family Justice Center, Brooklyn, New York. Continuing Legal Education credit was available (1 credit in the area of professional practice) for this program session.

The second program, "*Domestic Violence Issues In Custody Determinations: Myths and Reality*," was held at our Jamaica courthouse on October 30<sup>th</sup>, and featured discussion by Justice Esther M. Morgenstern, presiding Judge of the Intergrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV) in Queens County. We provided transportation between the Queens courthouses for these events.

A reference table with resource materials was displayed in each of the three Queens Supreme Courthouses throughout the month of October. The pamphlets contained information and statistical data on domestic violence. We tried to collect a variety of pamphlets in different languages to reflect our diverse borough.

### **Activities for Women's History Month 2006 or planned for 2007:**

On March 29, 2006, we hosted a complimentary lunchtime program with guest speaker Professor Margaret Turano, Esq. of St. John's University School of Law. The program was titled: '*Women Making History: Late Life Careers in Literature and Law*' plus... '*Students Making History: Winners of the Queens High School Essay Contest.*'

Beginning in January, our committee sponsored a High School Writing Competition in recognition of Women's History Month. Four first place winners received a cash prize of \$50.00 (that was donated by the Court Attorney's Association), had their winning essay published in the Queens County Bar Association Bar Bulletin, and were invited to sit on the bench with a Supreme Court Justice and observe courtroom proceedings. Each winner was presented with an Award Certificate at our Women's History program on March 29, 2006 in the Supreme Court, Kew Gardens Courthouse.

**Other Activities in the Past Year**

In April we coordinated the 2-day activity for "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work" programs during which youngsters are invited to partake in a continental breakfast as they listen to court representatives discuss careers in the courts. They are then taken on building tour, after which they participate in a mock trial competition.

Justice Roman, our chairperson, was invited as a speaker at the NYS Senate public forum: *A Lasting Blueprint for Judicial Diversity*, held in Queens, NY on January 18, 2007.

**Plans for Next Year:**

Next year we plan to address the issue of finding sources of funding for minimal awards for students of our essay contest.

**What are your committee's most important strengths?**

We have a variety of backgrounds leading to the ability to mount programs drawing large numbers of attendees

**What are your committee's biggest impediments?**

There is an unknown source of hostility to women's programs resulting in the continual tearing down of posted fliers (some with spit on them, others had shoe imprints)

**What have you learned as a committee chair that you think would be useful to pass onto other committees?**

As a committee chair I have learned importance of trying to involve the entire court community in our educational endeavors

**What assistance would you find helpful from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?**

We are always seeking resources for materials and pamphlets, and especially seek sources for non-English publications.

**What assistance would you find helpful from other local gender bias/gender fairness committees?**

An additional, more localized, semi-annual meeting would be helpful.

Please return this form by **March 7, 2007**, to:



Remarks of New York State Supreme Court Justice Sheri S. Roman  
at the New York State Senate Public Forum:  
*A Lasting Blueprint for Judicial Diversity*  
St. John's University School of Law, Jamaica, New York  
January 18, 2007

P R E A M B L E

SENATOR SMITH, MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ALL, THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING ME IN TODAY'S  
FORUM. IT IS A TOPIC QUITE CLOSE TO MY HEART. MY PERSPECTIVES ON  
JUDICIAL DIVERSITY REFLECT A VANTAGE POINT GAINED FROM  
PARTICIPATING IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR THE PAST 35 YEARS.  
AFTER GRADUATING FROM GEORGETOWN LAW CENTER, I SPENT 13 YEARS IN  
THE BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND WAS A BUREAU CHIEF IN  
THE HOMICIDE AND MAJOR OFFENSE BUREAUS. DURING THOSE YEARS, I  
WENT TO NEW YORK UNIVERSITY IN THE EVENING AND OBTAINED A MASTERS  
DEGREE IN LAW IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

I HAVE SPENT THE LAST 22 YEARS ON THE BENCH, FIRST AS A  
CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, APPOINTED BY MAYOR  
KOCH AND REAPPOINTED BY MAYOR GIULIANI. THEN, IN 1995, I HAD THE  
PRIVILEGE OF BEING ELECTED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW YORK BY  
THE CITIZENS OF QUEENS COUNTY, WHERE I RESIDE WITH MY HUSBAND AND  
2 CHILDREN.

WE WANT OUR BENCH TO MIRROR OUR COMMUNITY.

IN QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT WE HAVE INTERPRETERS READY TO TRANSLATE OVER 100 LANGUAGES, WITH NEW ONES BEING CONSTANTLY ADDED TO THE ROSTER. JUST LAST WEEK THE LANGUAGE OF MOORE SPOKEN IN BURKINO FASO, AFRICA, WAS ADDED TO THE LIST. QUEENS COUNTY IS A RESPLENDENT MODEL OF DIVERSITY. OUR JUDICIARY SHOULD BE ONE AS WELL.

IN 2006 I WAS ONE OF ONLY 3 WOMEN QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT JUSTICES IN CRIMINAL TERM. TO DATE, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A FEMALE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT.

\* \* \*

THIS MORNING I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE ISSUE OF GENDER AND BRIEFLY REFLECT UPON WOMEN ON THE BENCH. AS WOMEN JURISTS WE MUST PROVIDE OUR OWN SPECIALIZED BLUEPRINT TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN LAWYERS TO VISUALIZE THEMSELVES AS THE JURISTS OF TOMORROW AND PREPARE FOR A CAREER ON THE BENCH. CONCOMITANTLY, OUR POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS MUST FACILITATE GENDER EQUALITY.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES, REFERRED TO AS NAWJ, IS ONE OF THE NATION'S LEADING VOICES FOR WOMEN JURISTS. THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE HONORABLE TERRY JANE RUDERMAN, WISHES THE COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE.

OUR ASSOCIATION IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO INCREASING THE NUMBER AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN JUDGES AT ALL LEVELS. PRESENTLY, WOMEN CONSTITUTE APPROXIMATELY 29 PERCENT OF THE NEW YORK STATE JUDICIARY. THIS IS A MARKED INCREASE FROM 1984, WHEN CHIEF JUDGE LAWRENCE H. COOKE ESTABLISHED THE NEW YORK STATE TASK FORCE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS. NONETHELESS, IT IS NOTED THAT WOMEN COMPRISE APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN THE JUDICIARY WILL BE MORE REFLECTIVE OF THEIR GROWING PERCENTAGE IN THE PROFESSION. THEIR PRESENCE ON THE BENCH IS A VITAL COMPONENT IN PROMOTING GENDER FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS AND ENSURING THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM.

THIS COMMITTEE AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES SHARE A COMMON FRAME OF MIND REGARDING THE NECESSITY TO ESTABLISH A BLUEPRINT FOR JUDICIAL DIVERSITY.

LAST JANUARY, AS PART OF THE ANNUAL NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING, ALL NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES WERE INVITED TO ATTEND AN ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING AT THE CONFERENCE HOTEL. THEN, AS IS OUR CUSTOM, WOMEN JUSTICES RE-CONVENED FOR OUR ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL POST-BREAKFAST MEETING. IT WAS QUITE SYMBOLIC OF OUR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION, OR RATHER LACK THEREOF, THAT WE MOVED ACROSS THE HALL FROM THE LARGE JAM PACKED CONFERENCE ROOM FOR ALL SUPREME COURT JUSTICES TO A VERY SMALL MEETING VENUE THAT ENCOMPASSED ALL OF OUR FEMALE JUSTICES WITH AMPLE ROOM TO SPARE.

THIS STARK AND DISPIRITING JUXTAPOSITION JUMP STARTED DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO A WONDERFUL PROGRAM THAT NAWJ EMBARKED UPON THIS YEAR. REALIZING THAT TOMORROW'S WOMEN JUDGES MUST COME FROM THE RANKS OF TODAY'S LAW STUDENTS, WE HAVE STARTED AN OUTREACH PROGRAM WITH EACH OF THE 15 LAW SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK. I CHAIR THIS PROJECT AND WE PLAN TO SEND OUT DELEGATIONS TO MEET WITH WOMEN LAW STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE. WE ARE AVOIDING A COOKIE CUTTER APPROACH AND ARE DESIGNING FORMATS THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF EACH LAW SCHOOL.

OUR GOALS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:

WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO CONTEMPLATE A CAREER PLAN THAT INCORPORATES THE POSSIBILITY OF JUDICIAL SERVICE, THEN ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING VIABLE PATHS THAT LEAD TO ACCESS TO THE BENCH. WE WILL GUIDE DISCUSSIONS WITH WOMEN LAW STUDENTS REGARDING THE CRITICAL ISSUE OF HOW TO BALANCE FAMILY AND PUBLIC SERVICE. THESE TOUGH CHOICES WILL CONFRONT THEM AS THEY MAKE CAREER DECISIONS AND LEARN FIRST HAND ABOUT "GLASS CEILINGS" AND "MOMMY TRACKS." WE CERTAINLY WANT TO BE ABLE TO ASSURE THESE LAW STUDENTS THAT BOTH MEN AND WOMEN JURISTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MENTOR THEM AS WE SEEK TO CULTIVATE AN INTEREST IN THE JUDICIARY.

ANOTHER ONGOING NAWJ PROGRAM IS CALLED THE COLOR OF JUSTICE AND IT STARTS THE EDUCATION PROCESS AT AN EARLIER JUNCTURE. IT PROVIDES HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WITH JUDICIAL ROLE MODELS AND IT SEEKS TO CULTIVATE THEIR INTEREST IN A LEGAL CAREER.

THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE SPONSORS SEVERAL GRASSROOTS PROGRAMS, INCLUDING TAKE YOUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAYS, AND ESSAY CONTESTS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, WHERE THE WINNERS GET TO SHADOW JUDGES FOR A DAY. WE WANT OUR YOUNG WOMEN TO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO ASPIRE TO A CAREER IN THE JUDICIARY. WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO CONTEMPLATE A CAREER PLAN THAT INCORPORATES THE POSSIBILITY OF ASCENDING TO THE BENCH.

FORUMS SUCH AS THESE MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT WOMEN, AND OF COURSE, OTHER MINORITY GROUPS, MUST NOT BE MARGINALIZED AND ARE VITAL IF NEW YORK IS TO HAVE A VIBRANT, HIGH CALIBER AND REPRESENTATIVE JUDICIARY. A MORE DIVERSE JUDICIARY WILL HAVE AN ENHANCED UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIETY IT SERVES.

NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee  
Women's History Month Program:

**“The Marital Exception to Sexual Abuse Laws  
In New York and Other Jurisdictions”**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 1:00-2:00PM**

*8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room (Room 832), Kew Gardens Courthouse, 125-01 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, NY 11415*

**Guest Speaker: Professor Elaine Chiu, Esq.**

*Associate Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE-from Jamaica & L.I.C. Courthouses

**CLE CREDIT:** 1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit will be offered for this session \*  
(transitional & non-transitional appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys).  
The cost of this program is \$5.00 to cover lunch costs.

**It is FREE for those who do not wish CLE Credit**

**\* Application for accreditation of this program is currently pending.**

**R.S.V.P. NECESSARY By Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**For info. & TO REGISTER, CALL (718) 520-3501 (Chambers of Hon. Sheri S. Roman)**





School of Law

Tel (718) 990-6600  
Fax (718) 591-1855  
8000 Utopia Parkway  
Queens, NY 11439  
www.law.stjohns.edu

Re: Women's History Month 2006

Dear Friends:

I am looking forward to joining you again on March 29 for conversation.

Women sometimes have nonlinear trajectories in their lives and odd entry points into their careers. We all know how difficult it was for the earliest female lawyers to gain admission to law schools and the state bars. We know about the struggle women had to endure to acquire judgeships and partnerships and to split themselves between work at home and work in the courtroom. Because our March conversations often relate to literature, this year I propose to talk about Penelope Fitzgerald, an English author who died in 2000 at the age of 83. For the first sixty years of her life, she scabbled to survive, married to an alcoholic husband who functioned poorly. Working in a series of low-level jobs, dodging landlords and creditors, she stayed alive and raised three children. Then, starting at 60, she wrote her first novel, and by the time of her death she had written nine novels (five terrific, four outright breathtaking) and three biographies.

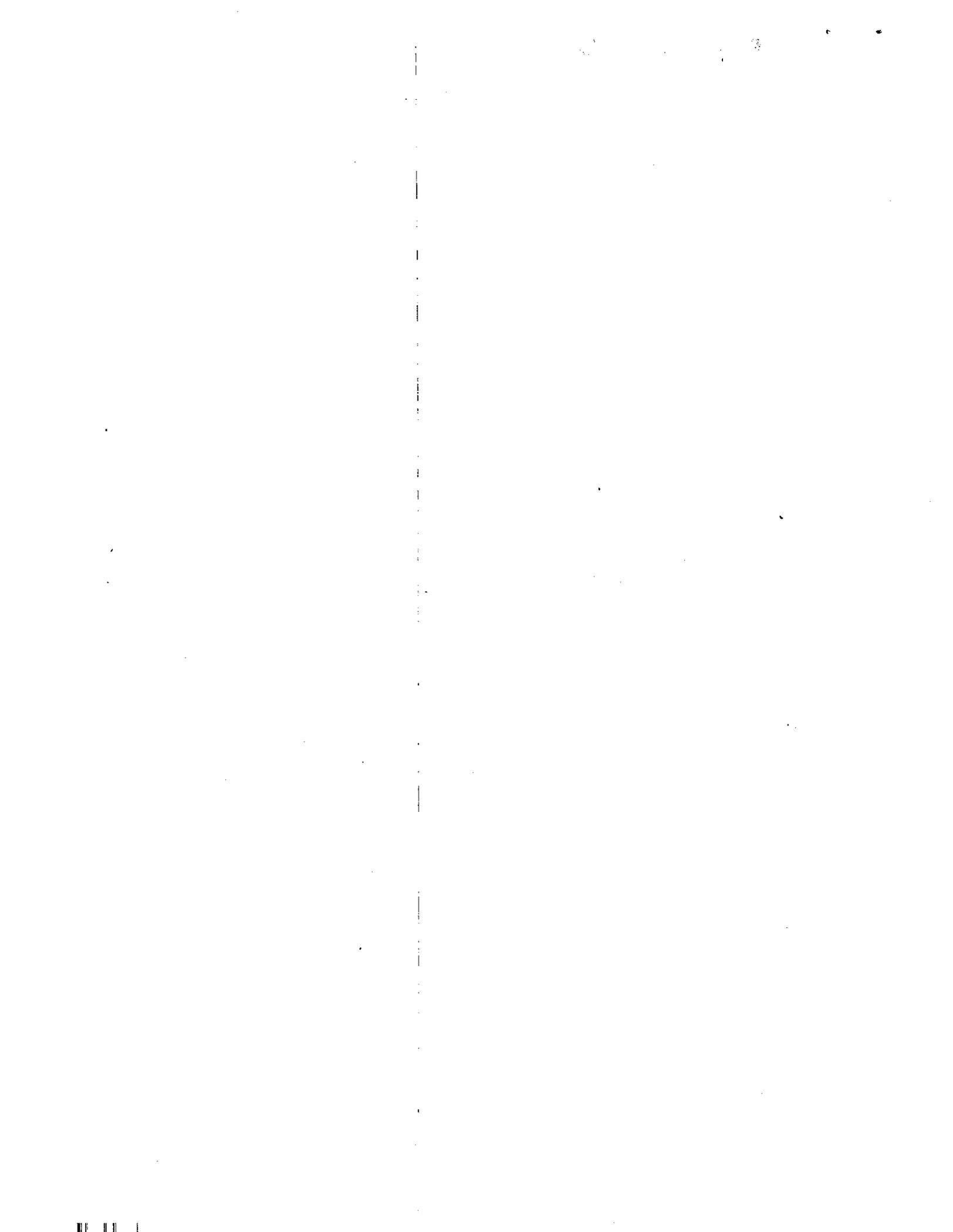
I was bereft when I learned about her death, but about a year later Amazon emailed me to report, "As a person who has bought Penelope Fitzgerald's books in the past, you may be happy to know she has published another." It's called *The Afterlife*, and I enclose four essays from that book. I also recommend her novel *Gate of Angels*. We'll try to get to all of these on March 29.

The working title of my thought-experiment is "Penelope Fitzgerald: Personification of the Second Chance." She fills me with perpetual hope; perhaps you'll have the same reaction.

Kind regards.

*Peggy Turano*

Margaret Valentine Turano  
Professor of Law



*Penelope Fitzgerald*

---

# THE AFTERLIFE

A good book is the precious life-blood  
of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up  
on purpose to a life beyond life.

*John Milton*

*Edited by* TERENCE DOOLEY

*with* CHRISTOPHER CARDUFF  
AND MANDY KIRKBY

*Introduction by* HERMIONE LEE

COUNTERPOINT

A MEMBER OF THE PERSEUS BOOKS GROUP  
NEW YORK

---

## WHY I WRITE

1. First, because something inside me compels me to tell stories. I mean that I get great satisfaction out of making people believe that this event happened at that time. Unlike history, fiction can proceed with confidence.

For example: a few years ago we were living on a Thames barge, and on the boat next door lived an elegant young male model. He saw that I was rather down in the dumps, a middle-aged woman shabbily dressed and tired, and he took me on a day-out to the sea, to Brighton. We went on all the rides and played all the slot machines. We walked for a while on the beach, then caught an open-top bus along the front. What happiness!

A few days later he went back to Brighton, by himself, and walked into the sea until it had closed over his head and he drowned. But when I made him a character in one of my books, I couldn't bear to let him kill himself. That would have meant that he had failed in life, whereas, really, his kindness made him the very symbol of success in my eyes.

2. I am drawn to people who seem to have been born defeated, or even profoundly lost. They are ready to assume the conditions the world imposes on them, but they don't manage to submit to them, despite their courage and their best efforts. They are not envious, simply compassless. When I write it is to give these people a voice.
3. I write to make money. I think that, even today, the most widely held view of the writer is of one who creates something, and even makes money out of it, starting from almost nothing, using memory, imagination, time, making marks on paper. He begins by dying of starvation in a garret, then he buys himself a word processor and soon he finds himself needing an accountant. In the eyes of the public he must be either a magician or a fraud. But this unfounded reputation does not upset the writer unduly. In a world full of dangers it is comforting to be considered, even wrongly, a crafty so-and-so.

1989

### *The Poetry Bookshop*

The Poetry Bookshop, both as a shop and as a publishing venture, existed from December 1912 to 1935—I should like to say “flourished,” but it hardly did that. It was never quite out of financial difficulties, and more than once close to bankruptcy. Yet it was considered a success by everyone who knew it, and remembered with affection. It had one object and one only, to bring readers and poetry together. It has to be judged, therefore, I suppose, by how close they seem together now.

The Bookshop was the idea of one man, Harold Monro, who was born in 1879. His family were Scottish in origin, and before his father there were three generations of doctors. The Monros owned a private

lunatic asylum, and there would have been money enough for Harold to live his life in modest comfort without making much effort. He had begun, in fact, as a drifter, expelled from school, tormented by his ambitions as a poet, and, after seven miserable years of marriage, separated from his wife. "She for whom I had built such cloud-capped summits of ideals," he noted, "cares for nothing better than to play tennis and reads novels the whole week." Here was the source of anguish, for Monro was deeply affected—though his wife evidently was not—by the mind-climate of the new century with its expectation of joy and freedom, expressed through Fabianism and Utopianism, through Tolstoyan settlements, garden cities and vegetarianism tea-rooms, through Shelley's Spirit of Delight and the Spirit of Ecstasy and the new Rolls-Royce. In 1908 he had tried to fit himself to join the Samurai, a movement that aimed, through clean living and spiritual training, to evolve a higher human type. There is a feeling here of sincerity pushing itself too hard, and at an early stage Monro began to drink, to struggle against drink, and to be haunted by his dreams. These were often nightmares of locked doors, or of grotesque chases and falls, or, once, of Christ begging him not to drink, but "because Christ meekly implored, I drank it down." But Monro had good friends, and it was his English friends in Florence, where he often stayed, who told him he ought to go back to London and concentrate his scattered efforts on "doing something about poetry."

Why should this be necessary? Certainly, at the beginning of the twentieth century, English people still read poetry. They read Kipling, Masfield, and Yeats, they took anthologies on walking tours through Scotland and Switzerland, and in particular they read *The Golden Treasury*. My own aunt and uncle, when they were engaged to be married in 1911, corresponded by postcard, giving a reference to *The Golden Treasury*. But rebellious elements were at work—the Imagists, the Vorticists, the Futurists, the new Georgians. Ezra Pound had arrived in London to call everyone to order. Edward Thomas believed that the trouble was too much poetry. Anyone with £5 to spare, he said, could get a book of verse printed, and "reviewers and booksellers have not been able to keep their heads above the stream." To Monro, poetry was a constant and necessary element in the life of man, particularly industrial man. It had to be restored to its right place.

Monro came back to London in the autumn of 1911. His happiest relationship was always teacher to pupil, and he brought with him a young man, half Italian, half English, Arundel del Re. "His weakness and pale-

ness did not impress us," Virginia Woolf wrote of him in 1919, "but then, perhaps weakness and paleness are the necessary qualities." Del Re, on this first visit, was "thrilled by everything," even "the long terraces of tall, grimy-looking, flat-faced houses peering down on the street." In one of these flat-faced houses, 35 Devonshire Street, *Monro* established his office.

Devonshire Street (now Boswell Street) was in Bloomsbury, "which at that time," *del Re* remembered, "had not yet become the favourite haunt of the younger highbrows." It was an unsavory place, full of cats and dustbins, and the ground-floor workshops made it noisy. At No. 35 there was only one cold-water tap for the whole building. But it was near the British Museum and the Central School of Arts and Crafts, and it was cheap. *Monro* had the habit, as he noted himself, of taking on responsibility for other young lives, and if you do that you must be careful with your money.

Needing advice, although he did not always take it, *Monro* turned to his friends, and in particular to two of them, Arthur Romney Green (1872-1945) and Frank Flint (1885-1960). Romney Green has been described as a "craftsman, woodworker, boat builder, sailor, mathematician, social reformer, friend and lover," but referred to himself as a small workingmaster. Carpenters and poets, in his opinion, faced the same problems, and he held that any man left with a chisel and a straight piece of wood will want to round it off—what was more, when he ran workshops, during bad times, for the unemployed, he proved that he was right. Extravagant and cranky though he was, *Monro* knew him for his good angel. Frank Flint was *Monro's* invaluable expert on French literature. His childhood was spent in London's old East End, one of a family that flitted from one home to another when the rent was due, and even before he left school at the age of thirteen he was working as a soap-boy in a barber's shop. In 1909, having made his landlady's daughter pregnant, Flint married her, but he managed, during intervals of his work as a clerk in the Civil Service, to learn nine—some say ten—languages. After bringing out his three small volumes of poetry—two of them published by *Monro*—he became cautious of expressing his emotions. But he was one of the few who attended *Monro's* funeral, and with the coffin, he said, disappeared "the largest and best part of my life."

*Monro's* first move, as soon as he felt his friends around him, was to recommend himself to what might be called the establishment, the

August Poetry Society. They agreed to lend their support to a new journal, the *Poetry Review*, and to enclose in it their dismal list of fixtures, the *Poetical Gazette*. Although Monro was to do the work and meet some of the expenses, his attraction for the Society was probably partly his appearance. His moustache and upright bearing made him look like a Guards Officer ("a dejected Guards officer," said John Drinkwater) and "safer" than most young poets. Late in 1912, however, he parted company with the *Review* and started up his own quarterly, *Poetry and Drama*, on the principle, said del Re, "that poetry was to be judged as poetry and not according to standards that, more often than not, have nothing whatsoever to do with poetry." Meanwhile, in September 1912, he was approached by Eddie Marsh, who asked him to publish an anthology of the new Georgian poets.

Marsh was Winston Churchill's Private Secretary, a patron of the arts and, in a guileless and generous way, of artistic young men. It was Rupert Brooke who had suggested the anthology (and, indeed, had offered to write the whole thing himself) and Marsh, though his taste was conservative, was taken by the idea of new young voices, rejecting the Victorian past, outshining *The Golden Treasury*. The selections, of course, he wanted to make personally, but it says a good deal for Monro, who had no experience of publishing beyond the Samurai Press, that Marsh should have chosen him to bring the book out, even though once again he took some of the financial risk. *Georgian Poetry 1911-1912* sold more than fifteen thousand copies, and it was ready on the center table for the customers who came to the opening of Monro's new venture, the Poetry Bookshop. Thirty-five Devonshire Street was to become a shop that would stock every book published in English by a living poet. The offices were moved up to the second floor, and downstairs, as the sculptor Gaudier-Brziska put it, they would "sell poetry by the pound."

Shopkeeping was new to Monro, and he never quite took to it. "Conscientious but incompetent" was his own description, although the shop in itself realized his dearest ambitions. Coming down from his office with stiff bows and hesitant smiles he would give heartfelt advice to the customers; often advising them to choose something more worthwhile but less expensive. The office boy was "slow and dreamy" and del Re, who never managed to master the Bar-Lock typewriter, drifted away, becoming a protégé of Logan Pearsall Smith. But Monro had the luck that courage deserves when he met a beautiful young woman, Alida Kle-

mantaski, who asked for nothing except the chance to serve humanity. She came from a Polish refugee family, and was "free," living largely on tea and cigarettes in a single room. A few days later she wrote to him: "The only way to make life worth living is to try and make other people love beauty as much as we do, isn't it? That is what I try to do." Teaching herself everything that was necessary as she went along—stock keeping, accounting, copyediting, hand printing, hand lettering—she became his shop assistant at twenty-five shillings a week.

She had thrown in her lot with him, and was eager to live with him and to bear his child, "a record of our love." Monro, after all, had a son by his first marriage, who sometimes came to see him—so too did his first wife, who was living cheerfully in London with her lover, and sending her friends gifts of port wine. "She is just a woman I married," he explained. He loved Alida. To him she was "Dearest Child," his safe refuge. "We are most nearly born of one same kind"—but they were not, and he could never find the right words to tell her that he had been homosexual ever since his schooldays. Possibly he thought that since Alida had joined "the ranks of the emancipated" she would understand him without difficulty, but she could not and did not, either then or ever.

Monro dreamed, night after night, that he was being buried alive. Both Romney Green and Frank Flint believed that Alida was a cool and balanced young woman who converted Monro from a romantic to a cynic. But in fact her temperament was one of heights and depths, and her love (though she had a generous heart) had its reverse side in wild jealousy, even of the visiting poets. Monro never lived with her, and was frequently away. Having become something like the official spokesman for English poetry, he worked devotedly at one of the most tiring of all occupations—traveling and giving talks. One of his lists reads "Workers' Educational College, National Home Reading Union, Village Clubs Association, Carnegie Trusts, Shakespearean Reading Circle." Sometimes the wheels of the train, as they rattled along, seemed to him to be repeating "Windy bore, windy bore." He could rely on Alida to send him every detail of the shop's fortunes. While the tragicomedy between them played itself out, she never failed the confidence he had put in her.

During its first years the Poetry Bookshop was crowded, and known as a welcoming place, warmed in winter by a coal fire with Monro's cat Pinknose and Alida's dogs stretched out in front of it, and with seats where you could sit and read without being asked to buy. The seats, and

indeed all the furniture, had been made by Romney Green out of massive oak. What became of these pieces in the end is a mystery, but it is hard to believe that they could ever have been destroyed. The shop was also a meeting place, and poets arriving in London, or even in England, made their way there as though by instinct. It was assumed that they would be needy, and the small rooms at the top of the house were available for them at the low rent of 3s 6d a week. The D. H. Lawrences, the Epsteins, the Frosts, all lodged there, and Wilfred Owen, who came there to get good advice, found that the place was full and had to take refuge in the local coffeehouse. Flint, however, noticed that none of them stayed there long. Devonshire Street was too much for them, he thought.

Monro, of course, was also still a publisher, on the lookout for good poetry. He never arrived at a definition of it, although he believed it had something to do with rhythm and sense becoming identical. He might have added, however, after a few years' experience, that poetry was what demanded, at all costs, to be published. In *Poetry and Drama* for June 1914 he had rashly said that he would "be glad at all times to receive letters from authors who consider themselves unfairly treated." In the *Chapbook* No. 23, May 1921, he specifies that manuscripts brought to the shop by hand will not be received, and even when sent by post "they cannot be examined within any specified period," but before that he had become used to abuse and reproaches of all kinds. Rejected authors called him "Your Lordship" and complained that he was reducing them to starvation, and even those who were accepted often protested bitterly.

*You bloody Deaconess in rhyme  
You told me not to waste your time—  
And that from you to me!*

*Now let Eternity be told  
Your slut has left my books unsold—  
And you have filched my fee.*

This was from that "magnificent gypsy of a woman," as Louis Untermeyer called her, "gnarled in her own nervous protests," Anna Wickham. No greater contrast with Anna could he imagine than the pale, withdrawn, enigmatic Charlotte Mew, Alida's "Auntie Mew," who also wrote sharply to Monro about his arrangements for her first book, *The*

*Farmer's Bride*. To both these poets, and to all the others, he sent out careful and regular accounts.

In 1913 the Bookshop's work was extended in two directions. It began to publish and sell its own illustrated rhyme sheets as cheaply as possible (they started off at a penny plain, twopence colored) and it announced twice-weekly poetry readings. These in themselves were nothing new—Monro had met Alida at a Poet's Club evening at the Café Monico, where she had read and he had been the guest of honor. But at the Bookshop's Tuesday and Thursday evenings, where comfort was not thought of, there was a spirit of quiet intensity. The room was up a flight of ladder-like stairs. The desk was candle-lit, later lamp-lit, with a shade of dusky green. Audiences, except for Yeats, were not large, and the takings (out of which the reader was paid) were small. Alida often read herself, or, if not, "managed" the highly-strung poets, although W. H. Davies—for example—whined from nerves like a baby. Monro had always thought of a poem as a printed score, brought to life by the human voice. His own (although he was a good amateur singer) he thought was too gloomy, and if any of his work was to be read, he left it to Alida. After the reading came "selling time," which often turned out to be talking time, late into the night. Yet these sparse occasions turned into immortal hours, and their reputation mysteriously spread. When Richard Aldington joined up in 1916, he (one might think rashly) told the Quartermaster Sergeant that he was a poet. "Oh, are you? Have you ever heard of the Poetry Bookshop?"

The war meant that Monro, like other publishers, lost his cashier and his traveler, ran out of paper, and found it difficult to sell any poetry except "trench verse." London, and particularly Bloomsbury with its wide squares, became like an armed camp. In August 1916, Monro got his own calling-up papers, and was sent first to an anti-aircraft battery, where he felt wretchedly out of place, and then to the War Office. "Dear child, what shall I do?" Alida, distracted with worry for him, had no doubt about what she ought to do. The shop had to be kept open, even though she had to do the packing herself and made deliveries with a handbarrow. In the evenings, if there were no Zeppelin raids, she colored the first series of rhyme sheets and some of the chapbook covers in watercolor, sometimes with the help of Charlotte Mew. Sidgwick & Jackson offered to travel the books for her, but they asked for 10 percent commission and that would have left her with less than nothing.

In the early Twenties, when, in Rose Macaulay's words, "there was a kind of poetry-intoxication going about" and John Masefield sold eighty thousand copies of his *Collected Poems*, the shop, to all appearances, should have done well. But though Monro had been untiring in his efforts to sell both his authors and the rhyme sheets in America, he had no capital to expand. Worse still, the shop's early success had given rise to competition. Arundel del Re himself opened a Chelsea Bookshop in 1919, and began to issue the Chelsea Broadsides. But he also sold modern pictures, while other establishments offered smocks and pottery and even tea and scones alongside the books of verse. This was quite foreign to Monro's original conception. But his account books told him one thing, his ideals another.

In 1920, apparently at the insistence of McKnight Kauffer, he married Alida at Clerkenwell Registry Office. Up to the last moment he had tried to explain his difficulties without success, and she had been left "terror-stricken" by hints that she did not understand. Her heart, she said, was now. As soon as the ceremony was over he disappeared, leaving her to go down to the country alone. Yet they still made their appearance in the shop together, although the customers talked and read rather than bought, and in 1923 bankruptcy seemed to threaten. "Will they sell my dogs?" Alida asked.

Drink, in one of Monro's earlier poems, he had called his "strange companion," not pretending that he could ever do without it.

*We never smiled with each other.  
We were like brother and brother,  
Dimly accustomed.*

Out of a residual sense of duty and his love for Alida he undertook during the 1920s a series of cures in France and Germany—"not the best places," she thought, "to fight such a battle," as wine was so cheap there. Meanwhile, the Devonshire Street lease would be up in 1926, and they arranged to rent new premises in 38 Great Russell Street, opposite the British Museum. With not much hope, surely, of success, Monro put out a proposal for the conversion of the Bookshop into a limited liability company. In this scheme the stock is valued at £3,500 and Romney Green's oak furniture at £500; the approximate turnover is given, but there is no mention of current profits. A few friends put themselves down for shares, but the idea came to nothing.

The second Bookshop, however, opened gallantly, with McKnight Kauffer's new sign and an interior decorated in orange, pink, and purple, the colors of the all-conquering Ballets Russes. But this room had to be partitioned and shared with the publishers Kegan Paul, and the readings were moved to a nearby hall, which meant that there was no "selling time" at all. Worn out with the move, Alida arranged things as best she could. The big book table and the wide seat still stood in the light from the windows, but there was no fire, only a gas stove, and she felt the old magic was lost. The rhyme sheets were still pinned up and could be read by passersby, but Monro had been obliged, in spite of everything, to stock general books on literature and art. It was no longer in the truest sense a poetry bookshop.

Monro by now had not much hope of recovery. In Great Russell Street he had taken to drinking at the local public house, the Plough, with the rough trade. "Red Mudie," "Albert," and "Italian Lou" figure in his scattered diary. Once the police had to be called in, and Alida's letters to him are in the truest sense pathetic. It is only the Strange Companion, she tells him, who stands between "the two helpless creatures that we are." And yet something in Monro, something that lay deep at the bottom of his mind, seemed to tell him that he was close at last to what he had always wanted to write about. He made a note to himself: "Can't I eat up some of these pornographic experiences and digest them hot and spit them out again as beauty?"

Monro died on 16 March 1932. In his will he had asked for his ashes to be scattered at the root of a young oak tree, though only if the idea proved practicable. The Poetry Bookshop was to be wound up. Alida did not take the decision to do this until June 1935, trying to persuade herself, she wrote to her friends, "that the moment had not come." But she told them that she would continue to live upstairs at 38 Great Russell Street and would be delighted to see any of them, "as if the Bookshop were still in existence."

*Georgian Poetry 1911-1912*, the Bookshop's first publication, was also its greatest success. The sales of the series dropped with the fifth volume, although *Georgian Poetry 1920-1922* still sold eight thousand copies. Finally Eddie Marsh was left looking back on his past success as an editor "very much as I should towards having been Captain of Cricket at Westminster." This remark in itself shows why Monro was anxious not to identify himself with the Georgians as a group, and why he appeared

ably gratified by their decline in reputation. Meanwhile in 1914 he brought out Ezra Pound's *Des imagistes*, and in 1915 Richard Aldington's *Images (1910-1915)* and Flint's imagist *Cadences*. With Futurism he would probably have gone much farther than he did if Alida had not expressed an absolute horror of Marinetti. All this was in line with the original idea of the shop as a "depot" where poets of different views could meet and talk far into the night, while their volumes confronted each other from the shelves. Through war, through money troubles, through alcoholism he continued doggedly to look for new poetry. His only competitor in the field was Grant Richards, who wrote to him in December 1920 that "we might between us clear up the poets of the country." Monro remains the publisher of Charlotte Mew, Anna Wickham, and Frances Cornford, and of Robert Graves's first book.

The Bookshop's list falls short of what it might have been. When the Big War (as he preferred to call it) became inevitable, Monro forcibly refused to print "patriotic rubbish," but from the young serving officers he managed to get only Robert Graves's early *Over the Brazier* and *Maggies in Picardy*\* by his young friend T. P. Cameron Wilson, who was killed in 1918.

Apart from this, Monro was reproached, and reproached himself, for his rejection of T. S. Eliot and Edward Thomas. Thomas had been an early friend both of *Poetry and Drama* and of the shop, and it seems inexcusable that the "Edward Eastaway" poems, which he sent round in May 1915 in a sad brown-paper parcel, should be returned to him. But Alida decisively objected to Thomas, probably as a friend of the dreaded Robert Frost. She also complained (March 1917) that Ezra Pound had been in "hawking" T. S. Eliot's poems. "We don't want them but he wouldn't take 'No' and said he'd send them to be seen." In both cases Monro came to recognize his mistake and did what he could to atone for it. After Thomas's death in action, he wrote to his widow, Helen, offering to publish, and must have felt that he deserved the reproachful snub he got in reply. Eliot's early poetry he frankly found hard to understand (so, too, did Leonard and Virginia Woolf, who took it for the Hogarth Press). But by 1915 he was able to "hear" Prufrock—"I consider that

\*Monro could not resist "improving" the title poem by leaving out the last two verses. But Field Marshall Lord Wavell, when he included "Maggies in Picardy" in his anthology *Other Men's Flowers* (1944), was able to remember the verses from the *Westminster Gazette*, where they had first been printed.

Harold is dawning," Pound wrote to Harriet Monroe—and in 1921 the Bookshop distributed the remaining copies of *Ara Vos Prec*. Monroe wrote well, though cautiously, about *The Waste Land* (*Chapbook* No. 34, February 1923), and Eliot, who remained a loyal friend, wrote the Critical Note for Monroe's *Collected Poems* (Cobden-Sanderson, 1933). Monroe, he said, was not a technical innovator, but a poet needs a new technique "only as far as it is dictated, not by the idea—for there is no idea—but by the nature of the dark embryo within him which gradually takes on the form and speech of a poem."

As an editor Monroe was at his happiest, or, to be more accurate, at his least unhappy. His gloomy enthusiasm was persuasive. Although *Poetry and Drama* was kept going by the royalties from *Georgian Poetry 1911-1912*, he was unable to pay his contributors, and yet the hard-up Edward Thomas and the penniless Flint worked their best for him. Aiming high, he tackled Robert Bridges, the Poet Laureate, and Henry Newbolt, both of whom responded. These were names from the past, but his drama critic, Gilbert Cannan, boldly supported Gordon Craig and the experimental theatre. Flint's "French Chronicle" in particular is written with information and feeling. The September 1914 number leaves him watching the North Sea roll in on a flat English beach, having heard that Charles Péguy is dead, wondering whether Guillaume Apollinaire will survive. But the war put an end to *Poetry and Drama*, and Monroe showed good sense in not trying to revive it. Its place was to be taken by *The London Mercury* (1919), edited by John Squire, and Eliot's *Criterion* (1922), although *The Criterion's* circulation was never more than nine hundred. "There are too many periodicals," Monroe noted in his diary, "yet who is going to stop? There is not enough stuff to go round." Meanwhile he had devised the monthly *Chapbook*, a delightful miscellany, sometimes unexpectedly lighthearted. For this he spirited up his old illustrators and some new ones to decorate the front covers and often—although it would have paid better to use the space for advertising—the back ones. Anyone who is lucky enough to possess a run must be glad to have No. 29, designed by Terence Prentis, the last of Monroe's admiring disciples, or Ethelbert White's covers in plum red, white, and yellow for No. 33, or Paul Nash's No. 35. The paper, of course, did not pay, although Monroe tried a number of editor's devices, including the unusual one of lowering the price (Nos. 25 to 38). It was erratic during 1921, the year after their marriage—Harold and Alida went abroad independently of each

her and publication lapsed for six months—but this was part of the *Chapbook's* ragged, Petrouchkalike charm. With almost every issue the subscribers could expect something different. Nos. 6 and 18 offered songs with music, No. 20 a crazy but deeply interesting piece by Gordon Craig on the political aspect of puppet shows, No. 29 a roaring satire by Gilbert Sitwell on the Georgians under the guidance of their goddess Mediocrity, No. 32 Harold Monro's "morality," *One Day Awake*, where the wretched protagonist, threatened by the voices of Business, Food, and Furniture, pours himself out a glass of wine as the scene closes. These were in addition to the issues on contemporary American, French, and English poetry.

The idea of the rhyme sheets may have come to Monro from the Dun Emer Press broadsides and the Flying Fame rhyme sheets, which the Bookshop took over in 1914, but they became distinctively his own. In the *Chapbook* No. 35, March 1923, he wrote that "certain distinctive qualities are essential to a successful Broadside, and it will be found, if these are studied, that only a few poems possess them." What are they? He never made this quite clear, perhaps, even to himself, but an important point was their impact. The poems vary a good deal in length, but they are usually short, sometimes cut down, even when (as with Blake's "Schoolboy," *The New Broadside* No. 6) this means changing the meaning entirely. In commissioning his illustrators Monro showed none of his hesitation with authors. They were the best he could get—Lovat Fraser, Charles Winzer (who designed two signboards for Sylvia Beach's Shakespeare & Co.; both were stolen), John and Paul Nash, Albert Rutherford, later David Jones, McKnight Kauffer, Edy Legrand, Edward Bawden. The illustrations, particularly Lovat Fraser's, were often decorations, almost independent of the text. But Monro, in the spirit of William Blake, wanted the verse and the picture to make their impression together. The sheets were meant to be pinned up and replaced at will, but the memory would retain the song and the last word would belong, not to time, but to joy, a memory which would last when the sheets were thrown away with the rubbish or blown with the wind. Robert Frost, waiting for a train on Beaconsfield station during his first visit to England, had seen a bit of paper blowing about at his feet, and picking it up he had read for the first time Ralph Hodgson's "Eve," printed as a "filler." This kind of chance, this kind of contact, was what Monro hoped for with the rhyme sheets. As to poetry, he once said, "the

less of it printed the better; and the more of it carried in the memory and conveyed by the voice, much, much the better." This, surely, is one of the strangest remarks ever made by a hard-working publisher. But the rhyme sheets' verses were carried in the memory. The writer William Plomer, looking back through thirty years, remembered how as a boy at Rugby he had hung the rhyme sheets on the walls of his room, "best of all, de la Mare's 'Arabia,' with gaudy decorations by (I expect) Lovat Fraser." Sylvia Townsend Warner wrote in August 1952 to Leonard Bacon,

Your mention of Ralph Hodgson and his broadsides swept me back to the public at fisticuffs. Broad sides were what one bought at Munro's [sic] Poetry Book-shop, only I think we called them rhyme-sheets. Like a galley proof, as you say, with rough coloured woodcuts heading and tailing them, often drawn by Lovat Fraser. And we tacked them on our walls above our beds and our baths. I remember one I was particularly attached to, that began

*Oh, what shall the man full of sin do,  
Whose heart is as cold as a stone,  
When the black owl looks in through the window,  
And he on his deathbed alone?*

(This particular poem was the first to be issued, and surely only the conscience-ridden Monro would have chosen it.) Sylvia Townsend Warner couldn't remember the author, and Plomer couldn't remember the artist (in fact Charles Winzer), which is not surprising, since these names were usually printed as small as possible. In a sense, they didn't matter; this was poetry, as Monro described it to Amy Lowell, to be "sold anywhere and everywhere, carried in the pocket, read in the train." This makes it hard work, of course, for today's collector and bibliographer.

Finally, in both the first and the second Bookshops, children were not forgotten. Although Harold and Alida were, in their different ways, rather intimidating for a young child, and cats, kittens, and dogs were needed as intermediaries; everything they published for children was successful. There were special rhyme sheets for them in both the two series and in the New Broad sides, which opened with de la Mare's "The Huntsmen." (It was disappointing, perhaps, that Ethelbert White had drawn the horsemen riding up the stairs to bed at the top, but not, in the

(All piece, going downstairs again.) Eleanor Farjeon gave readings of her poems from the Nursery Sheets, while Lovat Fraser's "Rhymes for Children" in the November 1919 *Chapbook* was so popular that they were reprinted on their own. Other poems, not in the first place intended for children, were dearly loved—Charlotte Mew's "The Changeling" (from *The Farmer's Bride*), Frances Cornford's "To a Fat Lady Seen from a Train" (from *Spring Morning*), and Harold Monro's "Overheard on a Saltmarsh" (from *Children of Love*, and reprinted as a rhyme sheet), which has been called "as complete and inexplicable as a thing seen suddenly and clearly between sleeping and waking" and was inspired by the green glass beads of an actress, Vera Tschaikovska. Osbert Sitwell declared that the children of a racecourse tough who lived next door to the Bookshop were offered some of the rhyme sheets but tore them up and stamped on them. This Monro would have to mark as another defeat. But it is fair to say that the Poetry Bookshop made a lasting impression on two generations.

1988

### *Miss Lotti's Story*

*Charlotte Mew: Collected Poems and Prose,*  
edited by Val Warner

During her lifetime Charlotte Mew was either greatly liked or greatly disliked, and now, more than fifty years after her death, those who are interested in her are very much interested. There are at least two collections of her papers which nobody is given permission to see—not quite with the feeling that she ought to be left to rest in peace, but, rather, that she shouldn't be shared indiscriminately with outsiders. She was a writer who was completely successful perhaps only two or three times (though that is enough for a lyric poet) and whose sad life, in spite of many explanations, refuses quite to be explained.

Val Warner, who has worked for so long and against so many difficulties to produce this edition, is to be congratulated. The prose pieces and seven of the poems have been collected for the first time, there are five new poems, and the fifty-four lines which were cut from "In Nun-

head Cemetery" in Duckworth's collected edition of 1953 have been pulled back. There is a level-headed introduction and a bibliographical note (to which Sir Sydney Cockerell's diaries should be added). Val Warner, herself a poet, is not primarily interested in biography. I am therefore hoping to expand and correct one or two points.

Charlotte Mew, who lived from 1869 to 1928, changed very little for about thirty years of her life. She was tiny, trim, curly-haired, and pale, wearing size-two boots—doll's boots. Her eyebrows were fixed in a half-moon of surprise, apparently at a joke. What joke? Possibly one that she liked to tell: a hearse-driver runs over a man and kills him, and a passer-by shouts: "Greedy!" She was the sort of person whose luggage is carried by helpful young men, and yet she regarded the world with defiance, answering inquiries with a toss of the head, and carrying her umbrella like a weapon. This umbrella, with which she repelled tiresome children on the beach, was part of her Victorian character as "Miss Mew" or "Miss Lotti." Among what she called "good five o'clock people," she guarded this personality carefully. Only when she felt sure of her company would she sometimes let herself go, and, like most melancholics, prove wildly entertaining. But at the same time Charlotte Mew was writing, and indeed living, *à rebours*, under the threat of insanity and in the dark thrill of self-inflicted frustration. The split could not be concealed indefinitely, and by the 1920s her appearance had altered, and shocked. "Her wind-blown gray hair, her startled gray eyes, her thin white face, belonged to a reluctant visitor from another world, frightened at what she had undergone in this one." The biographer has not so much to reconstruct her life as to account for what life did to her.

Charlotte Mew was the third child (out of eight) of Fred Mew, a farmer's son from the Isle of Wight, who had come to London to be trained as an architect by H. E. Kendall. In 1863 he married Kendall's daughter, a tiny, silly woman who was "above" him, and always made him feel so: he was made to describe his own father, on the marriage certificate, as "Esquire." Charlotte remembered her childhood as happy. Looking back, she was quite sure, as English poets are, that there had been a happier time. That had been in the two top rooms of 10 Doughty Street, with the round table and the rocking horse, and a doll's house designed by Fred. Here Lotti, radiant, passionate, and excitable, ruled the nursery, hopped up beside the driver whenever a cab was called, and was half-mad with excitement at Christmas. She told Florence Hardy

but she "never outgrew the snowflakes." And yet when she was only seven, two of her brothers died—one a baby, one, her great playmate, a six-year-old. Lotti, as was then considered right, was taken in to see him in his coffin. The steadying influence was their Yorkshire nurse, Elizabeth Goodman, tenderly described in Charlotte's article "An Old Servant": "as fixed a part of the Universe as the bath (cruelly cold in winter) into which she plunged us every morning, and the stars to which she pointed through the high window, naming some of them, in the evening sky." But it was also this faithful servant who imprinted on Lotti's mind the Evangelical sense of guilt and retribution. Every sin—and every happiness—has been calculated in advance, though not by us, and must be paid for.

*Sweetheart, for such a day  
One mustn't count the score;  
Here, then, it's all to pay,  
It's good-night at the door.*

This was the poem, "Fin de Fête," that in 1916 attracted the attention of Thomas Hardy and convinced him of Charlotte Mew's talent. Hardy, of course, didn't need to be persuaded that the Spirit of the Universe was exacting, and Charlotte had the kind of temperament that accepted this without question, even in the nursery.

In 1882 Charlotte was sent to the Gower Street School, which had connections with Bedford College. Here, at the age of fourteen, she fell violently in love with her headmistress, Lucy Harrison. Miss Harrison was one of the great educationalists of the turn of the century. "There was something royal in her nature," Octavia Hill wrote. There was also a strongly masculine element. She was one of the conspicuous successes of the liberal and unsectarian Bedford College: a brilliant scholar (as well as an expert carpenter) and a supporter of liberal movements—she kept as a souvenir a cigar given her by Mazzini. Her aim was to open windows for her pupils, both for the body and the mind. During this first important post the strain on her temperament proved too great, and in 1883 she was forced by what was called "a breakdown in health" to resign. One of the old Gower Street pupils, Mrs. Alice Lee, said that when the news was given out Charlotte, who had been playing the piano, "jumped up and in a wild state of grief started to bang her head against the wall."

Alice, who was younger, wondered if she ought to bang her head too. Miss Harrison retired for the time being to Hampstead, where she continued to coach her favorite girls. Lotti was one of them: Fred Mew innocently believed that it would "stabilize" her to keep in sight of the beloved teacher. Her friends remembered that at this time she was in such high spirits, and so amusing, that the walk from Bloomsbury to Haverstock Hill seemed short. After two years, however, Lucy Harrison fell deeply and permanently in love with Amy Greener, who had taken over the Gower Street School. "Dearest, I do not feel at home anywhere without you now," she wrote. "With the person you love comes a halo and a glow over everything, however miserable and poor, and without that presence the light seems to leave the sun itself. This is a trite remark, I am afraid." Miss Greener later wrote on this delicate subject delicately, saying that she had often been asked whether her friend's life had "lacked the perfect rounding love can bring." She assured her readers that it had not, and the two of them lived for many years of unclouded happiness together in Yorkshire.

Besides this first experience of desertion, Lucy Harrison left with Charlotte her ideals of restraint and self-discipline, even in small things ("if a pudding is begun with a fork, the help of a spoon must not be called in half-way through"), and a passion for English literature. The books she read with the inner group allowed for a certain release of emotion—in fact, for Miss Harrison's soppy side: the Brownings, the Brontës, Alice Meynell, Francis Thompson, Tagore's "King of the Dark Chamber" and "The Post Office." When Charlotte Mew found her individual voice, all these influences persisted, just as her school friends remained her first and last refuge throughout her life. With them there was less need for concealment, because they had grown up with Charlotte and knew the unpleasant secrets of the Mews' new home at 9 Gordon Street. By 1888 the eldest son, Henry, and the youngest, Freda, were both incurably insane. Both had to be confined, Henry with his own nurse, in Peckham Hospital, Freda in the Carisbrooke Mental Home on the Isle of Wight, the town which Charlotte described, twenty years later, in "Ken":

*So when they took  
Ken to that place, I did not look  
After he called, and turned on me  
His eyes. These I shall see—*

Ken, however, is represented as an amiable idiot, whereas both Henry and Freda were victims of what was then called dementia praecox—that is, schizophrenia. “In Nunhead Cemetery” sets out to represent the process of the split mind—“a sudden lapse from sanity and control,” as Mew explained it—by the dreadful heap of earth and flowers in the graveyard. Meanwhile the guilty identification with the two unfortunates, and the heavy expense of having them looked after, darkened the Mews’ respectable daily life. Charlotte wrote of 9 Gordon Street as “The Quiet House.” She had a wretched fantasy that one evening when the front-door bell rang, she would answer it and face herself, waiting outside in the street.

In September 1898 Fred Mew died of cancer. During his long illness Charlotte had made her first appearance in print with a short story, “Passed,” which was published in the *Yellow Book* for July 1894. I think she probably began to write in order to make some money. Mrs. Mew was left, or made out that she was left, badly off, and lamented that she would have to let off half of the house. Anne had trained at the Queen’s Square Female School of Art as a screen and furniture painter. Charlotte had been trained for nothing, so she wrote. She wrote slowly, and, like the heroine of *New Grub Street*, did her time in the British Museum Reading Room, grinding articles (“The Governess in Fiction,” “Mary Stuart in Fiction”) out of other people’s books. Original to the point of willfulness when the impulse to poetry came, she seems, with these prose contributions, to have studied the market. In “In the Curé’s Garden” she is imitating *Villette*, in “Mark Stafford’s Wife” she is imitating Henry James, in “The Wheat” she is imitating May Sinclair, and in “The Fatal Fidelity” she seems to be having a shot at W. W. Jacobs.

Her first story, “Passed,” is the most impulsive and interesting of the lot. The subject is guilt. A respectable young woman hardens her heart when a prostitute appeals to her for help. Later she wanders into a Catholic church as the candles are lit for Benediction, and sees a girl patiently helping her imbecile sister. She knows then how far she has failed in human love. “Passed” is appealing because the painful emotion is felt as true, but it is a period piece: apart from the scene at the altar and the prostitute, we get the prostitute’s dying sister, the cynical clubman who seduces them both, and the haunting scent of violets in a cheap china cup. No wonder it was accepted immediately by Henry Harland, the *Yellow Book’s* editor. To her old friends—rather left behind at this

point—Lotti seemed one of the New Women. She went about London unescorted, smoking hand-rolled cigarettes, her hair cut short as Miss Harrison's had been, and wearing a smaller version of Miss Harrison's black velvet jacket, collar and tie. She was now in the orbit of Harland's contributors and John Lane's Keynotes—"George Etherton," Evelyn Sharp, Netta Syrett, and the languid but sharp-witted Ella D'Arcy. These young women were not Bohemians: they were dandies. They objected when Frederick Rolfe left lice on the furniture; Beardsley was "a dear boy" to them. At the Victorian Club for Professional Women, or in the new flats and studios, they talked with passion and spirit. As Evelyn Sharp puts it in her reminiscences, "We were on the crest of the wave, and felt that everything must go." Meanwhile they lived on very small incomes. It was a gallant fellowship, but precarious. When her brother died in 1901, Charlotte made a run to Paris and the companionship of Ella D'Arcy. When she describes how she walked through the rain and the dazzling lights to help Ella arrange her bed-sitting room in the Rue Chat we get a last glimpse of the decade that had suited her best.

She was soon recalled to London. Mrs. Mew rarely let her daughters stay away for long. But the tyrannous old mother was, it turned out, indispensable. In the end, Charlotte's attachment to her home and family was stronger than her desire to be free: they promised normality, which implies peace. During these apparently quiet years, when, as "Miss Lotti," she was ordering the dinner or doing social work in the Girls' Clubs, she became a poet. Hers is a poetry of tensions, which Val Warner defines as "passion unfulfilled by the loss of youth, by death, by the working of a malign fate, by the dictates of conventional morality, by renunciation and even by the glorification of renunciation of all love into itself a kind of passion," to which I would add the overwhelming conviction of guilt. This is only too clear in "Fame," where Charlotte Mew sees herself with disgust "smirking and speaking rather loud" at London parties, "where no one fits the singer to his song," or "On the Asylum Road," where she is one of the crowd passing the darkened windows which cut off the inmates, or "Saturday Market," where a wretched woman tries to hide her disgrace under her shawl and sets the market "grinning from end to end." The images leave the writer, as she put it, "burned and stabbed half through." They are not experimental, but they are not quite under control either. In the main, the shorter her lyrics are the better, partly because her ear for meter was uncertain over a long

truth (she calculated by syllable, not by stress), and partly because they were *cries de coeur*. Explaining this in a letter, she gives examples of genuine *cries de coeur*. Margaret Gautier's "je veux vivre" and Mrs. Gamp's "I think fair, Betsy, wotever you do." Cries have to be extorted: that is their test of truth. The quality of emotion is the first requirement of poetry, she said. Given that, she liked to speak in different voices, and in both sexes. She is a "cheap, stale chap" in "Nunhead Cemetery" and an adolescent French schoolboy, set on edge with frustration, in "Fête." In "The Farmer's Bride" the young wife has "turned afraid" and sleeps in a room, while the farmer sweats it out only a flight of stairs away.

*"Oh, my God! the down,  
The soft young down of her, the brown  
The brown of her—her eyes, her hair, her hair!"*

"Sexual sincerity is the essential of good emotional work," commented Wilfred Scawen Blunt, who, predictably, didn't like the personae of Hardy. He was "often left in a puzzle by the situations." But the uncertainty, of course, was in itself sincere, and made a strong, half-uncomfortable appeal to readers as different as Hardy and Virginia Woolf.

One of these early admirers was the novelist May Sinclair. Charlotte had written to her in 1913 congratulating her on *The Combined Maze*, a novel in which the image for the human condition is a men and women's evening gym class at the Polytechnic. The outcome for the hero is sacrifice and repression of "the murmur of life in the blood," a theme well understood by Charlotte. May replied, ready to embark on another of her many literary friendships, but within a few months Charlotte had begun to fret. May Sinclair was a small, pretty, cat-loving woman and an entirely professional writer. She had many interests, including philosophy and what was then called medico-psychology, and kept an escape route for suffragettes across her back garden. She could deal competently with most situations, and her letters show that when the friendship grew warmer and Charlotte became importunate, she knew how to put it quietly in her place. "When I say, 'I want to walk with you to Baker Street Station,' I mean I want to *walk*, and want to walk with you, and I don't want to walk to Baker Street Station. . . . Better to take things simply and never go back on them, or analyse them, is not it?" At the same time May was generous in her appreciation of the poems, which Charlotte read

aloud to her in her hoarse little male impersonator's voice. She recommended them to Ezra Pound (who printed "Fête" in *The Egoist*) and, indeed, to every critic she could think of. She perhaps encouraged Charlotte unduly when she wrote to her: "I know one poet whose breast beats like a dynamo under an iron-gray tailor-made suit (I *think* one of her suits is iron-gray) and when she publishes her poems she will give me something to say that I cannot and do not say of my Imagists." It was surely a loss on both sides when the friendship abruptly ended, in 1916-17. After the breach, there was not much poetry in Charlotte Mew. In 1969 an American scholar, Theophilus Boll, who was most painstakingly writing the *Life of May Sinclair*, began to turn this episode over in his mind. "If I should find something awful enough," he frankly admitted, "I might produce a bestseller, instead of an academic 'doubt-sell.'" In this he was disappointed, but Dame Rebecca West allowed him to see a letter from G. B. Stern, recalling how May Sinclair had told them, in her "neat precise little voice," that Charlotte Mew had chased her upstairs into her bedroom, "and I assure you, Peter, and I assure you, Rebecca, I had to leap the bed five times." Dr. Boll says he pondered this, working out with true academic caution how far May Sinclair, who was then over fifty, would really have been able to leap.

It is not surprising, then, that when she first called at the Poetry Bookshop and was asked, "Are you Charlotte Mew?" her reply was: "I am sorry to say I am." The Bookshop, during those years the natural meeting-place of poets, was a small room off Theobald's Road in what was then a slum area of Bloomsbury, and it was largely run and managed by an intense, energetic Hampstead-Polish girl, Alida Klementaski. Alida had read "The Farmer's Bride" in *The Nation*, and was "electrified." "This poem I immediately committed to memory, and a year or two later repeated it to Harold Monro, who had recently opened the Poetry Bookshop with the avowed intention of publishing the work of young poets and presenting them to a large audience." Charlotte was no longer young, but in 1916 the Bookshop brought out "The Farmer's Bride" and sixteen other poems in an edition of five hundred copies, with a cover design by Lovat Fraser. After Charlotte's death Alida, with a good deal of difficulty, composed a memoir that, up to now, has been the standard source of information. There are some unforgettable passages—the chloroforming, for example, of the Mews' savage old parrot (a job which Alida reluctantly undertook), and the tragic account of the sisters' last days. But Alida,

though a staunch friend, was not qualified to understand the nature of Charlotte's emotional life. Homosexuality dismayed her. In 1916 she wrote in distress to Harold Monro that she had missed the last 19 bus and been stranded in the rooms of a fellow suffragette: during the night she had been terrified and "nearly went off my head when the young woman came into my room—I said 'go and get a dressing-gown' . . . but she said in a curious voice, 'No, it's too much fag.'" In consideration for this new friend, Charlotte produced an edited version of her life-story. She did not tell Alida the truth about May Sinclair, and she accounted for her distrust of men (except for the old and tamed) by saying that a lawyer had once cheated her out of a sum of money. So Alida, the first and closest biographer, was also the first to be mystified.

To her, the fiftyish Charlotte was "Auntie Mew," and as an eccentric auntie Charlotte became a habituée of the Bookshop. Now that she was modestly well known she was more farouche than ever and more suspicious of patronage, refusing to visit the Sitwells, dodging Lady Ottoline Morrell, intimidating Virginia Woolf, but in the fire-lit bookshop, with Alida's dogs and Harold Monro's cat, there was no need for defensiveness. During the Twenties she acquired, also, an elderly beau. Sydney Cockerell, the director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, had been struck by "The Farmer's Bride," though he was timid at first about "the brown of her": "I suppose her sunburnt arms and neck?" he suggested. In time, Charlotte became one of the middle-aged artistic ladies with whom he conducted decorous flirtations. She was, he noted in his diary, "both witty and profound." He invited her to Cambridge to see the Fitzwilliam's Brontë manuscripts, and "after tea we sat on the grass, looking at the waterlilies." In London they had little suppers in restaurants and saw Charlie Chaplin in *Shoulder Arms* and Noël Coward in *Flay Fever*. To Cockerell it seemed that she was subsisting on tea and cigarettes, since Charlotte, like most women living on a fixed income, had the illusion of being much poorer than she really was. In 1924 he arranged a Civil List pension for her of £75 a year, calling on the "Big Three" (Thomas Hardy, John Masefield, and Walter de la Mare) to give their recommendations. It didn't matter, he explained when she objected that she was writing nothing—the pension wasn't dependent on that. For all this kindness she was thankful, but when she needed, as she put it, to listen to her own heart she turned to his wife, Kate, or to Thomas Hardy's second wife, Florence.

In 1922 the Mews moved to 86 Delancey Street. It was a smaller house, but they could look down and see the children and the Punch and Judy in the street below. This had always been a resource to Charlotte. "The Shade Catchers," which Alida thought the best of her poems, simply describes two barefoot children shadow-hopping down a sunny London pavement. The move upset Mrs. Mew. She fell, contracted pneumonia, and in May she died. Four years earlier Edith Sitwell had described Charlotte as a gray and tragic woman "sucked dry of blood (though not of spirit) by an arachnoid mother," but the death did not come as a release. On the contrary, Charlotte felt adrift, "like a weed rooted up and thrown over the wall." "Was not able to be of any use," Cockerell noted in his diary. The two sisters retreated to Anne's studio off the Tottenham Court Road. It was the bachelor establishment that, in the Nineties, they had never had, but without the spirit of those lost days. They looked on it, indeed, as a comedown, and all Charlotte's warring emotions were concentrated on the protection of her sister. Anne, who had not been able to work for some time, was ill. The illness was cancer of the liver, and Anne began gradually to die in public, for callers were still received. "They ought to be allowed to put her to sleep," wrote Alida.

As I talked to her and she shut her eyes I felt they were sealed on her face and would never open, but they did. Auntie Mew says the Dr says any moment she may go down to earthy mould. Poor little Mew it is more tragic than I can tell you—Her rough little harsh voice and willful ways hiding enormous depths of feeling—now she will be entirely alone and her relation with Anne has been one of complete love, and I imagine the love of sisters (or brothers) more marvellous than any other as there can be no fleshly implications or sexual complexities.

When Anne died in June 1927, Charlotte felt a survivor's guilt. It was not the search for recognition, or even the search for love, that was to extinguish her, but the determination to be punished. She convinced herself first that Anne might, as the result of her negligence, have been buried alive, and next that she herself was contaminated and that the black specks in the studio were the germs of cancer. A doctor examined the specks: they were soot. Charlotte was persuaded to go into a private nursing home where the matron was not the kind of woman to understand her, and the view from the window was blocked by a stone wall.

After living there alone for about a month, Charlotte Mew went out, bought a bottle of Lysol, and drank half of it. A doctor was called, but the only one came round sufficiently to say: "Don't keep me, let me go."

"24 February 1928," Cockerell wrote in his diary. "A tragic ending to the tragic life of a very rare being. After dinner wrote a little memoir of her for the *Times*." In the following year the Bookshop brought out *The Rambling Sailor*, with thirty-two more poems—all that could be found by Charlotte's executors. By the 1930s the grave where Charlotte and Anne lay buried together was neglected, but collectors had begun to buy Charlotte's letters. In 1940 the research staff of the H. W. Wilson Company were at work on their *Twentieth-Century Authors*, and evidently quite at a loss over her entry. They settled for: "She was educated privately, she lived for some time in Paris, she loved someone deeply and hopelessly, she endured poverty and illness and despair." She was given a pension, they added, "so that she should not starve." So the half-myth perpetuated itself. None of this would matter if it did not concern a poet "who will be read," as Hardy insisted, "when others are forgotten."

1982

### *A Questioning Child*

*Imagination of the Heart: The Life of  
Walter de la Mare, by Theresa Whistler*

Walter de la Mare believed that children—if they could be got to listen at all—were the best listeners. I remember as a small girl hearing him at afternoon readings upstairs at the Menros' Poetry Bookshop in Devonshire Street. I did not consider that he read satisfactorily, though he was better when he took turn and turn about, as he often did, with the valiant Eleanor Farjeon. And he did not *look* like a poet. I knew how poets ought to look, because at that time they walked about the streets of Hampstead. De la Mare was at the same time too stout and too trim for someone who had met at eve the Prince of Sleep, as I did not doubt that he had. But he was the man who had written *Peacock Pie*. That was enough.

But poetry, he said, "depends for its life on being remembered," and no one knew better than de la Mare that iron rusts, Time returns mock-

---

## HOW I WRITE: DAISY'S INTERVIEW

### *How Do Novelists Write?*

If the subject is how, rather than why, then I think you have to distinguish between male and female novelists. I believe that most women will always be kitchen-table writers and worse still that they become irreversibly conditioned to it. Just as Napoleon, if he had ten minutes to spare, allowed himself to go to sleep for ten minutes exactly, so a woman, in my experience, can pick up her draft novel and go on with it, precisely until the telephone, the doorbell, the egg timer, or the alarm clock rings. Women adapt in a peculiar way to the battle against Time and Nature. I started writing during my free periods as a teacher in a small, noisy staff room, full of undercurrents of exhaustion, worry, and reproach, and for a long time after I gave up my day job I missed the staff room, and, sitting in peace and quiet, could scarcely get anything written. I had thought of both of them—peace and quiet—as the absence of certain things. That's not so, they are positive, but to my dismay I found they worked against each other. In the tranquility of my own room, overlooking a garden with a large pear tree, I found I was waiting obsessively for an interruption and even ready to welcome it.

The patron saint of all kitchen-table novelists must be Margaret Oliphant (1828–1897)—Mrs. Oliphant, as she always called herself. I once wrote the introductions for five of her novels for Virago, and in that way got to know her. She married an invalid artist cousin, for whom, if we read about him, we feel distinctly sorry—but, however that may be, he died of TB, leaving Margaret Oliphant pregnant, with nothing much beyond his debts. She paid these off, raised her children, saw every one of them die, and made herself responsible for her alcoholic brother and numerous other relations. In consequence she had to write at night, usually to pay off money that had already been spent. She wrote 98 novels, 25 biographies, about 50 short stories, some of them strikingly good.

When her friend James Barrie said that “she was of an intellect so alert that one wondered she ever fell asleep,” he was poeticizing an almost frightening way of life.

Mrs. Oliphant, of course, had no mechanical help of any kind, only keeping a small container of prepared ink into which she put a few drops of water, enough for each night’s work. On the other hand, she took for granted one great advantage of the nineteenth-century writer—that is, a constant supply of listeners. These were nieces, second cousins, friends’ daughters, some of them apparently living in the house and all of them ready to give their opinion when she wanted to read what she had just written aloud. That, I’ve always felt, would be of considerable help. But I can’t tell, it’s an experience I’ve never had.

### *Daisy’s Interview*

Before I start on a novel I don’t need a synopsis of what is going to happen, but I do need the title, the opening paragraph, and the last one. Once I’ve got these, I can start.

In 1990 a book of mine came out called *The Gate of Angels*. It was one of those novels that start from a persistent, even obsessive, idea or image (the famous example would be George Eliot’s *Silas Marner*—she called it “a story which came across my other plans by a sudden inspiration, a sort of legendary tale, suggested to me by having once, in early childhood, seen a linen weaver with a bag on his back”). The image that stayed with me wasn’t—though they so often are—from childhood. It was something I saw on a visit to Cambridge, through the window of a bus, somewhere near Newnham. It was a tremendously windy day, and on one of Cambridge’s unexpected patches of green land there were cows moving about under the willow trees. The wind had torn great wreaths and branches off the willows and thrown them down to the ground, and the cows were ecstatic—they were prancing, almost dancing; they’d hoped all their lives to get at the trees and now at last they could. It struck me that in this orderly University city, the headquarters of rational and scientific thinking, things had suddenly turned upside down, reason had given way to imagination.

It happened that I had been wondering what exactly was meant by the term “Mach 2.” I knew that it was a measure of supersonic speed and I

thought it was named after a distinguished scientist, but I didn't know who Mach was, and certainly didn't realize that he was an opponent of Rutherford and the early atomic physicists because he considered that atoms were only a provisional idea; they were unobservables, and science shouldn't be based on the unobservable, otherwise it was no better off than metaphysics, which asks us to speculate about the unseeable. While I was trying to think about this, with the image of the cows and the willow trees intervening, a novel suggested itself, turning on the problem of body and soul. The title would be *The Unobservables*. But the publishers, or rather their sales department, rejected this immediately as lacking not only in sex but also in human appeal of any kind. I changed it to *Mistakes Made by Scientists*, which I liked almost as much, but I was told, quite correctly, that it wouldn't fit on the jacket and didn't sound like a novel anyway.

On this one occasion, then, I had to work without a title. Still, my attempts to find out more about Ernst Mach (1838–1916) had put me into the right period—that is, the time just before the First World War when (in Cambridge in particular) there was a fierce debate between scientists and metaphysicians. I imagined Fred—representing the mind and reason, though only partly—as a young physicist during the glorious early experimental years at the Cavendish, and Daisy as a strong young woman training to be a hospital nurse. Of course, they wouldn't be anything like precise opposites. To start with, both of them would be young and poor, though Fred's would be the poverty of a shabby country vicarage and Daisy would come from teeming South London.

Daisy is a fearless survivor, a favorite type with the late-Victorian and Edwardian light novelists—W. W. Jacobs, for instance, or Barry Pain in *Eliza*. Men don't disconcert these girls, nor do the regulations and prohibitions men make. In the following bit of dialogue Daisy is waiting her turn for an interview with the matron of a great London hospital, the Blackfriars. A notice painted on the inner door reads: "This hospital turns away more than a thousand applications a year from persons desiring to train as nurses. Every year perhaps 4 or 5 are accepted."

Daisy was the last to be called. She looked with respect at the woman sitting on the other side of the desk. You had to struggle, perhaps fight and bleed, to get a position like that. Matron was short, pale and pale-haired, as straight as though suspended from a hook.

"You may sit down."

She repeated from the application paper in front of her Daisy's name and address.

"You are nearly eighteen. Are you a single woman or a widow? If you are a widow, have you children? If children, how are they provided for?"

"I'm single."

"And have you anyone dependent on you for support?"

"Not now."

"You may call me Matron."

"Not now, Matron."

"But recently?"

"There was my mother. She died in March."

"And that left you free to apply to enter the nursing profession, which of course would entail your living away from home."

"I suppose it did."

"So that her death has been a release for you."

"No, I won't say that, and I don't say that. It wasn't a release for her either."

The matron appeared not to listen to this, but fixed her attention on the papers on her desk. "Your birth certificate. You're too young, but the Governors have changed their policy about that to some extent. Vaccination certificate. Height?" Daisy said she thought five foot six, without heels. "It's not a matter of thinking," the matron said. "Educated at the Victuallers' School, certificate of good conduct and application. Did you study Latin? Do you understand what I mean by enemata?"

Daisy did not, but said that she was prepared to learn.

"I don't expect the girls who come to us to know anything. Now, are you strong and healthy, and have you always been so? Let me explain, in order to save time, that several of the applications today mentioned, apparently only as an afterthought, that they had rheumatic fever as children, which meant that if they were accepted here they might collapse and become a nuisance and an expense at any given moment."

"I've always been strong and healthy," said Daisy and beneath her put-on clothes she felt her physical self-respect extend and stretch itself, like a cat in the sun.

"And your sight and hearing are perfect?"

"Yes, I think so. I've never thought about them."

"You notice that I wear reading-glasses myself. I need them now, but as a probationer I did not need them. Have you any physical defects?"

"What kind of defects?" Daisy asked, a little troubled.

"Any I can't see at a cursory glance. You may be subject to very heavy periods. You may be marked and scarred. Your spine may be crooked. . . .

Have you any tendency to pulmonary complaints?" She looked up sharply. "Do you know what I mean by 'pulmonary'?"

"Yes, it means to do with the lungs."

"Pertaining to the lungs. A sickly nurse is of no use to the profession. One might call her an enemy of the profession. Above all, though, we don't want a weakly habit of constant complaint. As a rough guide, remember that while the average man is ill for four days a year, a grown woman must expect to spend one fourth of her life in actual pain."

Daisy felt a rush of admiration. So far she herself had done nothing like her fair share.

This is the "catechism type" of dialogue, on which Joyce declared he based his *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, where one side has the right answers and the other sometimes knows them and sometimes has to guess them. It's also a confrontation where the reader is asked to have some sympathy at least with both sides.

### *A Few Remarks on the First Draft*

At the beginning I see that I hadn't really settled Daisy's age (or even her height). The qualifying age for probationers at that time was over twenty, but that was too old for Daisy, who is going to act with the rashness and curiosity of a very young girl, so in the text I've made the hospital (not very probably) alter its admission policy. I've done this as unobtrusively as possible, as readers are very quick to notice this kind of mistake.

20 The distinction between "lady nurses" and ordinary probationers is characteristic of the early 1900s and I wanted to get it in somewhere, but this wasn't the place to do it. The matron would have seen immediately that Daisy was "of the domestic servant class."

28 "This was not quite true." The concept of absolute scientific truth—Fred, the physicist, holds it, and so does the matron—is totally different from Daisy's. Her idea of truth is relative, and largely depends on her own convenience and the wish not to hurt other people's feelings. This is important to the story, but it's not the moment to hold up the dialogue.

41 "You should call me Matron." The matron ought to have said this much earlier. She detects the independent streak in Daisy and must make

## FIRST DRAFT

1. DAISEY'S TURN CAME; SHE WAS THE LAST TO BE  
 2. CALLED; THE LAST OF THE 1000, PERHAPS. SHE  
 3. LOOKED WITH RESPECT AT THE WOMAN, NEITHER  
 4. YOUNG NOR OLD, SITTING AT THE OTHER SIDE OF  
 5. THE DESK WHO COULD SCARCELY HAVE GOT THERE  
 6. WITHOUT A TENSE PROLONGED STRUGGLE. [THE]  
 7. MATRON WAS SMALL AND SANDY-HAIRED AND SAT  
 8. UP AS STRAIGHT AS THOUGH SUSPENDED FROM A HOOK.  
 9. [YOU MAY SIT DOWN] SHE REPEATED FROM THE PIECE  
 10. OF PAPER IN FRONT OF HER DAISEY'S NAME AND ADDRESS  
 11. ARE YOU A SINGLE WOMAN OR A WIDOW? IF  
 12. YOU ARE A WIDOW, HAVE YOU CHILDREN? IF CHILDREN  
 13. HOW ARE THEY PROVIDED FOR?  
 14. I'M SINGLE, DAISEY SAID.  
 15. ~~TO BE SURE~~  
 16. AND HAVE YOU ANYONE DEPENDENT ON YOU FOR  
 17. SUPPORT?  
 18. NOT NOW—  
 19. WHAT WAS YOUR LAST OCCUPATION? YOU UNDER-  
 20. STAND THAT WE HAVE A NUMBER OF GENTLEWOMEN  
 21. APPLYING HERE FOR TRAINING. THERE SEEMS TO  
 22. BE A CERTAIN FASHIONABLE CRAZE IN THAT RESPECT.  
 23. OF COURSE THEY WOULD NOT BE ASKED TO UNDERTAKE  
 24. ANY DISAGREEABLE TASKS. OUR STAFF NURSES ARE  
 25. DRAWN MAINLY FROM THE DOMESTIC SERVICE CLASS  
 26. I'M NOT A GENTLEWOMAN DAISEY SAID BUT I'VE  
 27. NEVER BEEN IN SERVICE EITHER  
 28. THAT WAS NOT QUITE TRUE THERE HAD BEEN THE  
 29. WASHING-UP JOB AT SEVEN SHILLINGS A WEEK WITH  
 30. INCENTIVE FOR BACKPACKS  
 31. YOU'RE AGE LAST BIRTHDAY? YOU ARE STILL ONLY  
 32. 17? YOUR VACCINATION CERTIFICATE? YOUR  
 33. HEIGHT? DAISEY SAID SHE THOUGHT FIVE FOOT FOUR,  
 34. WITHOUT HEELS. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF THINKING THE  
 35. MATRON SAID. WHERE WERE YOU EDUCATED? —  
 36. I WENT TO THE ELEMENTARY, THEN I HAD THE  
 37. ~~COUNTY SCHOOL~~ THEN I WENT TO THE VICTUALERS  
 38. SCHOOL. — AND YOU HAVE A CERTIFICATE OF GOOD  
 39. CONDUCT AND APPLICATION?  
 40. YES MA'AM  
 41. YOU SHOULD CALL ME MATRON. THAT IS SOMETHING  
 42. THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LEARNED, IF YOU WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL  
 43. DID YOU LEARN ANY STUDY LATIN? DO YOU UNDERSTAND  
 44. WHAT I MEAN BY ERMATA?  
 45. DAISEY DID NOT, BUT SAID SHE WAS PREPARED TO LEAR

46 Her ignorance, however, didn't seem to distress  
 47 the Matron.  
 48 Are you strong and healthy, and have you always  
 49 been so? Let me explain in order to save time,  
 50 that two of the applicants to-day had had  
 51 rheumatic fever and yet they only mentioned it as  
 52 an afterthought. I while still at school which means  
 53 that if they were employed here they might be  
 54 collapse and become a nuisance at any given  
 55 moment] (and an expense) Matron.  
 56 I've always been strong & healthy, (underneath  
 57 her put on clothes, the costume and the wicked (?)  
 58 straw hat, she felt the here proper physical pride  
 59 of her twenty-seven years collect & extend itself like  
 60 a cat in the sun.  
 61 And your sight & hearing are perfect?  
 62 Yes, they're very good. [TEST here Matron to ask  
 63 her about something in sight not much in sight  
 64 bring out austerity of the room]  
 65 You notice that I wear ~~glasses~~ <sup>reading glasses</sup> myself. [I need them  
 66 now, but as a probationer I did not need them]  
 67 I've never had any glasses, spectacles  
 68 Have you any physical defects?  
 69 What kind of defects? Daisy asked in a low voice  
 70 Any that I can't see, Miss Saunders, at a rapid  
 71 cursorily glance. You may be marked or scarred,  
 72 your spine may be crooked... Have you any tendency  
 73 to pulmonary complaint she looked up sharply. Do  
 74 you understand what I mean by 'pulmonary'? - Yes it  
 75 means to do with the lungs. - Pertaining to the lungs,  
 76 the Matron said. - Chest troubles phthisis - were  
 77 not consumptive in my family At the same time,  
 78 I don't mean a weakly habit of complaint &  
 79 fancied imaginary aches or fancied weariness. You  
 80 realise perhaps that a grown woman must expect  
 81 to spend one fourth of her life in actual pain?  
 82 I suppose that's true considering your stays always  
 83 hurt a bit, where the laces come Daisy said.  
 84 <sup>Real pain I am referring to]</sup>  
 85 To assume, have you ever been present at a death  
 86 or a birth? (Daisy shakes head.) Finally my dear  
 87 (the my dear started Daisy) why do you want to  
 88 be a hospital nurse? - I wasn't there when my  
 89 mother died, but I wish I had been.  
 90

it as clear as possible from the beginning that there is no place for it in the running of a great hospital.

63 "(TEST here)." A mistake. Quite out of place for Matron to make a random test at an interview, or indeed at any time.

65 "I need them now." I left this in because it's not meant as a sentimental reflection, only as a warning to an ignorant girl.

At the end, however, as I saw as soon as I read it over, the dialogue goes completely to pieces. I got the question "Have you ever been present at a death or a birth?" out of one of the numerous handbooks published around 1912-14 on the nursing profession. It has a certain force, but it's wrong here, and so is Matron's "my dear" at line 86. The two women must end, as they began, as adversaries who feel respect for each other, but nothing more (or less) than that. Daisy finishes "down," but not down and out. No one ever gets the better of Daisy except herself, or rather her own weaknesses.

All this seems like paying far too much attention to an unimportant passage. But as I'm a hopelessly addicted writer of short books I have to try to see to it that every confrontation and every dialogue has some reference to what I hope will be understood as the heart of the novel. As I've tried to explain, it's about body, mind, and spirit.

NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month Program:

**“An Update on Recent Domestic Violence Laws and  
A Discussion of the New York City Family Justice Center”**

**Wednesday, OCTOBER 25, 2006, 1:00-2:00PM**

*8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room (Room 832), Kew Gardens Courthouse, 125-01 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, NY 11415*

**Guest Speaker:** ***Amy Barasch, Esq.***

*Executive Director, New York City Family Justice Center and  
Chairperson of the Domestic Violence Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

**CLE CREDIT:**

1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit will be offered for this session (transitional & non-transitional appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys). The cost of this program is \$5.00 for those who wish CLE credit to cover lunch costs

It is **FREE** for those who do not wish CLE Credit

Application for accreditation of this program is currently pending.

**A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**

**TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE:**  
*from Jamaica & L.I.C. Courthouses*

**R.S.V.P. NECESSARY By Monday, Oct. 23rd**

**For info. & TO REGISTER, CALL (718) 520-3501 (Chambers of Hon. Sheri S. Roman)**

**QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT**  
**Gender Fairness Committee: Domestic Violence Presentation**  
October 25, 2006

**SPEAKER: Amy P. Barasch, Esq.**

Executive Director, New York City Family Justice Center, Brooklyn, NY

**Introduction to the Family Justice Center**

- a. What is a Family Justice Center?
  - i. Criminal justice
  - ii. Advocacy
  - iii. Family court/immigration
  - iv. Children
- b. How does the Family Justice Center in Brooklyn function?
  - i. Prosecution
  - ii. Advocacy
  - iii. Relationship with IDV
- c. Results of the Model Thus Far
- d. Legal Challenges of the Model
  - i. Confidentiality
    - 1. Family Court: CPLR § 4503; 22 NYCRR §§ 457.16; 1200; FCA § 166
    - 2. City Agency records: NY Pub Off Law § 94
    - 3. Criminal information: CPL §§240.20; 240.50; NY Exec. Law § 221-a
    - 4. Social workers CPLR § 4508(a)
  - ii. "collaborative" legal services
  - iii. Child abuse reporting (SSLNY Soc. Serv §§ 413 – 422)
- e. New Legal Programs
  - i. Family Court Orders of Protection for elder victims with telephonic appearances
  - ii. Onsite preparation of OP petitions, scanned and emailed to Family Court
  - iii. Brooklyn Law School clinic

**Legal Updates**

The Reauthorization of the 2005 Violence Against Women's Act, VAWA (H.R. 3402) - Signed 02/08/06/ VAWA 2005's significantly enhanced protections:

Title VI: Housing discrimination protection for those in public housing; funding for transitional housing.

Title VIII: protections for immigrant and battered victims

**Change in the Criminal Procedure Law changing the duration of criminal court orders of protection:**

**Final order on A misdemeanors is 5 years**

**Final order on B misdemeanors and violations is 2 years**

**§ 530.12 Protection for victims of family offenses.**

5. \* Upon conviction of any crime or violation between spouses, parent and child, or between members of the same family or household, the court may in addition to any other disposition, including a conditional discharge or youthful offender adjudication, enter an order of protection. Where a temporary order of protection was issued, the court shall state on the record the reasons for issuing or not issuing an order of protection. The duration of such an order shall be fixed by the court and, in the case of a felony conviction, shall not exceed the greater of: (i) **eight** years from the date of such conviction, or (ii) **eight** years from the date of the expiration of the maximum term of an indeterminate or the term of a determinate sentence of imprisonment actually imposed; or in the case of a conviction for a class A misdemeanor, shall not exceed **five** years from the date of such conviction; or in the case of a conviction for any other offense, shall not exceed **two** years from the date of conviction. For purposes of determining the duration of an order of protection entered pursuant to this subdivision, a conviction shall be deemed to include a conviction that has been replaced by a youthful offender adjudication. In addition to any other conditions, such an order may require the defendant: \* NB Effective until September 1, 2009

**§ 530.13 Protection of victims of crimes, other than family offenses.**

4. \* Upon conviction of any offense, where the court has not issued an order of protection pursuant to section 530.12 of this article, the court may, in addition to any other disposition, including a conditional discharge or youthful offender adjudication, enter an order of protection. where a temporary order of protection was issued, the court shall state on the record the reasons for issuing or not issuing an order of protection. The duration of such an order shall be fixed by the court and, in the case of a felony conviction, shall not exceed the greater of: (i) **eight** years from the date of such conviction, or (ii) **eight** years from the date of the expiration of the maximum term of an indeterminate or the term of a determinate sentence of imprisonment actually imposed; or in the case of a conviction for a class A misdemeanor, shall not exceed **five** years from the date of such conviction; or in the case of a conviction for any other offense, shall not exceed **two** years from the date of conviction. For purposes of determining the duration of an order of protection entered pursuant to this subdivision, a conviction shall be deemed to include a conviction that has been replaced by a youthful offender adjudication. In addition to any other conditions such an order may require that the defendant:

\* NB Effective until September 1, 2009

Amendment to the Family Court Act to permit protection for companion animals in orders of protection

Family Court Act

§ 842. Order of protection.

(i) 1. to refrain from intentionally injuring or killing, without justification, any companion animal the respondent knows to be owned, possessed, leased, kept or held by the petitioner or a minor child residing in the household.

2. "Companion animal", as used in this section, shall have the same meaning as in subdivision five of section three hundred fifty of the agriculture and markets law.

The New York State Supreme Court  
Queens County Gender Fairness Committee

In recognition of  
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

present:

\* \* \* \* \*

**“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES  
IN CUSTODY DETERMINATIONS:  
MYTHS AND REALITY”**

**Panelists:**

**Hon. Esther M. Morgenstern,**

Presiding Justice, Queens County Integrated Domestic Violence Part

and

**Marjorie Steinberg, Esq.,**

Director, Childrens Law Center in Queens

\* \* \* \* \*

**Monday, October 30, 2006**

**1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.**

**Queens County Courthouse - Jamaica**

88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica NY - 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

**LUNCH:** available for those who REGISTER BY OCTOBER 27th

**TRANSPORTATION:** available from Kew Gardens & LIC Courthouses

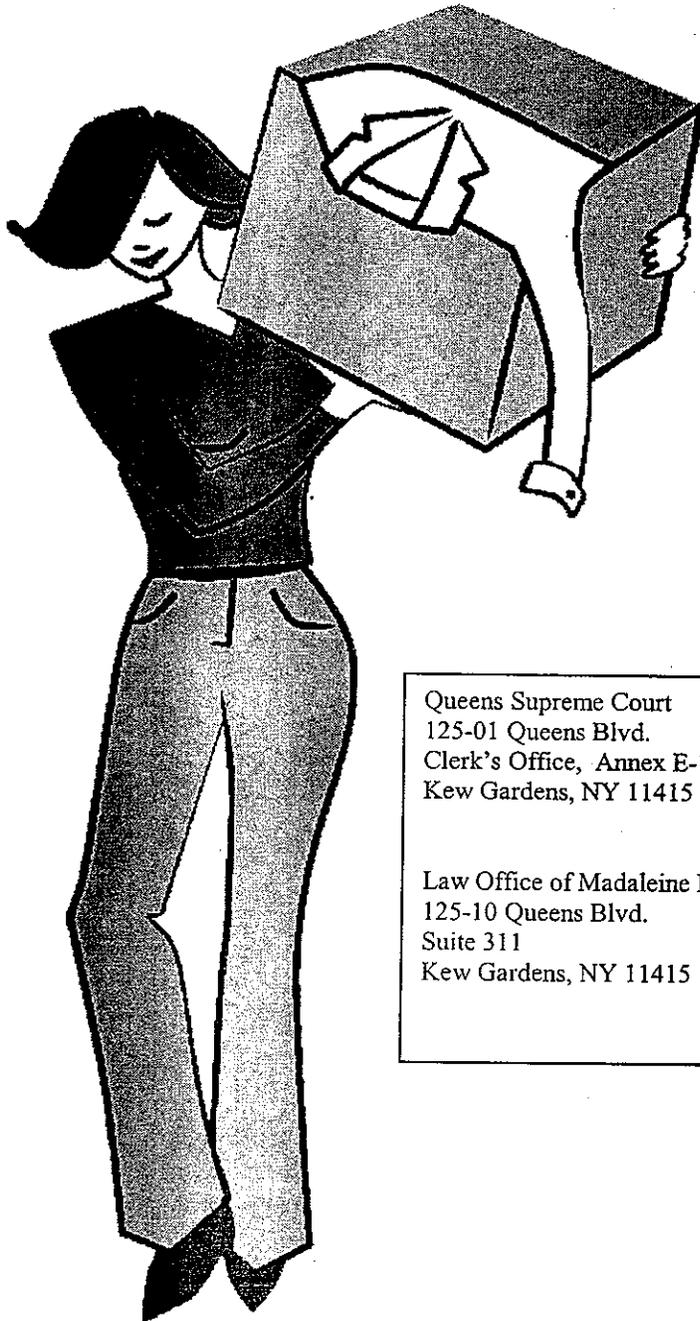
**R.S.V.P. Required:** Call (718) 520-3501 (Justice Sheri Roman's chambers)

*all are welcome !!!*

THE QUEENS COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR  
ASSOCIATION  
Announces



**DRESS FOR SUCCESS®**  
*Suits to Self-Sufficiency*



Date: NOV 27<sup>TH</sup> – NOV 30<sup>TH</sup>  
Time: 10am to 4pm

**NEEDED:**

Interview Attire  
including but not limited to:  
Suits (on hangers) , Shoes,  
Handbags, New Pantyhose  
(especially 0-4 and Plus Sizes)

Queens Supreme Court  
125-01 Queens Blvd.  
Clerk's Office, Annex E-121  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Law Office of Madaleine Egelfeld  
125-10 Queens Blvd.  
Suite 311  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Queens Civil Court  
89-17 Sutphin Blvd.  
Jamaica, NY 11435  
Attorney's Room  
(behind Small Claims Court)

Any Questions or Comments please call Kathy Ward 718.520.3524 or Madaleine Egelfeld 718.544.6363

**\*\*Special Thanks to the Gender Fairness Committee and the Court Clerks and Personnel \*\***

*Brooklyn Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Gloria Dabiri**  
Supreme Court  
360 Adams Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
347-296-1031



**LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2006-2007**

Name of the Committee: KINGS SUPREME COURT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

Chair:

Name: Honorable Matthew J. D'Emic  
Address: Brooklyn Supreme Court  
320 Jay Street, Room 25.77, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Phone #: 347-296-1031  
Fax #: 347-296-1337  
Email: mdemic@courts.state.ny.us

# Members 25 # Meetings 20 Avg Attendance 7 Video Conferencing No

Composition of the Committee:

Judges	<u>7</u>
Administrators	<u>18</u>
Advocates	<u>0</u>

WOMENS' HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM - March 20, 2006

See attached.

BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY - April 8, 2006

See attached.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH - October 26, 2006

See attached.

**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:**

A new chair was selected commencing with the 2007-2008 year.  
Justice Gloria Dabiri will coordinate all future events.

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

Please return this form by **March 15, 2007**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel  
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
25 Beaver Street, Room 878  
New York, NY 10004  
212-428-2793 - FAX  
jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

Information regarding this year's theme was found at [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org) (National Women's History Project). The 2006 theme "Women: Builders of Communities" honors women for bringing communities together.

Brooklyn Supreme Court celebrated Women's History Month on Monday, March 20, 2006. An important part of our program is the presentation of the Hon. Ruth E. Moskowitz Award (the "Ruthie"). Judge Moskowitz, a well-liked and well-respected jurist, was a pioneer in civil rights and women's rights and a true builder of our community.

Nominations and selections for honorees of the Ruthie Award were open to any person's accomplishments to the community without regard to gender. The three honorees recognized for their contributions to the community were:

### Honorable Michael L. Pesce, Presiding Justice, Appellate Term

Began his law career with the Legal Aid Society. Later, while in private practice he served four terms in the NYS Assembly. He was elected to the Civil Court in 1980 and served as an Acting Supreme Court Justice-being elected to the Supreme Court in 1989. He is the former Administrative Judge of Brooklyn Supreme Court. Judge Pesce serves on many charitable boards and has received the Order of Merit from the Government of Italy, as well as honors from many bar associations including the first Court Innovation Award.

### Edward J. Volpe, Chief Clerk, Brooklyn Supreme Court Civil Term

Over the past 28 years, Ed has worked his way up from Court Officer to Chief Clerk, where he supervises the security staff and non-judicial employees and oversees the operation of all of the functions of the Supreme Court, Civil Term. He also initiated the Non-Judicial Retirement Ceremony honoring employees who have retired during the year.

### Margaret S. Balles, secretary, Brooklyn Supreme Court

In addition to her duties as a judge's secretary, Margaret organizes the monthly Lunch & Learn seminars for the Judicial Institute, coordinates various programs for the Gender Fairness Committee and is a volunteer for Bring Your Child to Work Day. There is no task too great or too small that she has not been willing to take on herself or lend a hand with. In March 2002, she was recognized as Brooklyn Supreme Court Employee of the Month.

Citations were presented to each honoree by Frederick Arriaga, Esq., counsel to Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz.

Approximately 100 people attended this program - not only for the honorees but also by those who remember Judge Moskowitz. Her family - husband Martin Gershon, sons Robert Gershon and Joel Gershon and her twin sister Ann Lyons - attended the ceremony. As this year marked the tenth anniversary of her death, her son Joel gave a very moving tribute about his mother and added that the awards ensure she will not be forgotten, that her principles are recognized and that her friends and colleagues have an opportunity to gather in her memory.

A light reception followed the formal presentation.

In Celebration Of  
Women's History Month



National Women's  
History Project

The Brooklyn Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee  
proudly presents

**The Ruth E. Moskowitz Award**

to

**Justice Michael L. Pesce**

*Presiding Judge, Appellate Term*

**Edward J. Volpe**

*Chief Clerk, Supreme Court, Civil Term*

**Margaret S. Balles**

*Secretary*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Monday, March 20, 2006.**

**1:00 PM to 2:00PM**

**360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY**

**\*\* Everyone Welcome - Light Reception to Follow \*\***

\* \* \* \* \*

**Sponsored by:**

**Hon. Neil J. Firetog, Administrative Judge-Criminal Term**

**Hon. Theodore Jones, Administrative Judge-Civil Term**

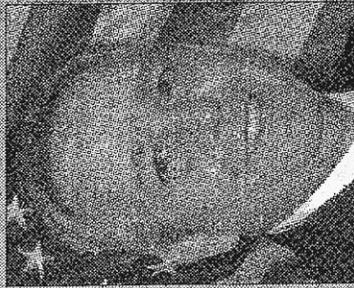
**Hon. Matthew J. D'Emic, Chair, Gender Fairness Committee**

# Upcoming Events in the Legal Community

Mon. March 20, Women's History Month Celebration, 1-2 p.m.

Presenting the Ruth Moskowitz Award ("The Ruthie") to Justice Michael Pesce, presiding judge, Appellate Term, Chief Clerk Edward Volpe, Civil Term, and Secretary Margaret Balles. Held at Brooklyn Supreme Court, Civil Term, 360 Adams Street, Room 224. For information, contact Hon. Matthew J. D'Ernic: 347-296-1031.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



ABOVE LEFT: Hon. Michael Pesce, presiding judge, Kings County Appellate Term. ABOVE CENTER: Chief Clerk Edward Volpe, Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term. ABOVE RIGHT: Secretary Margaret Balles

# The 'Ruthie Awards' Presented at Brooklyn Supreme Court

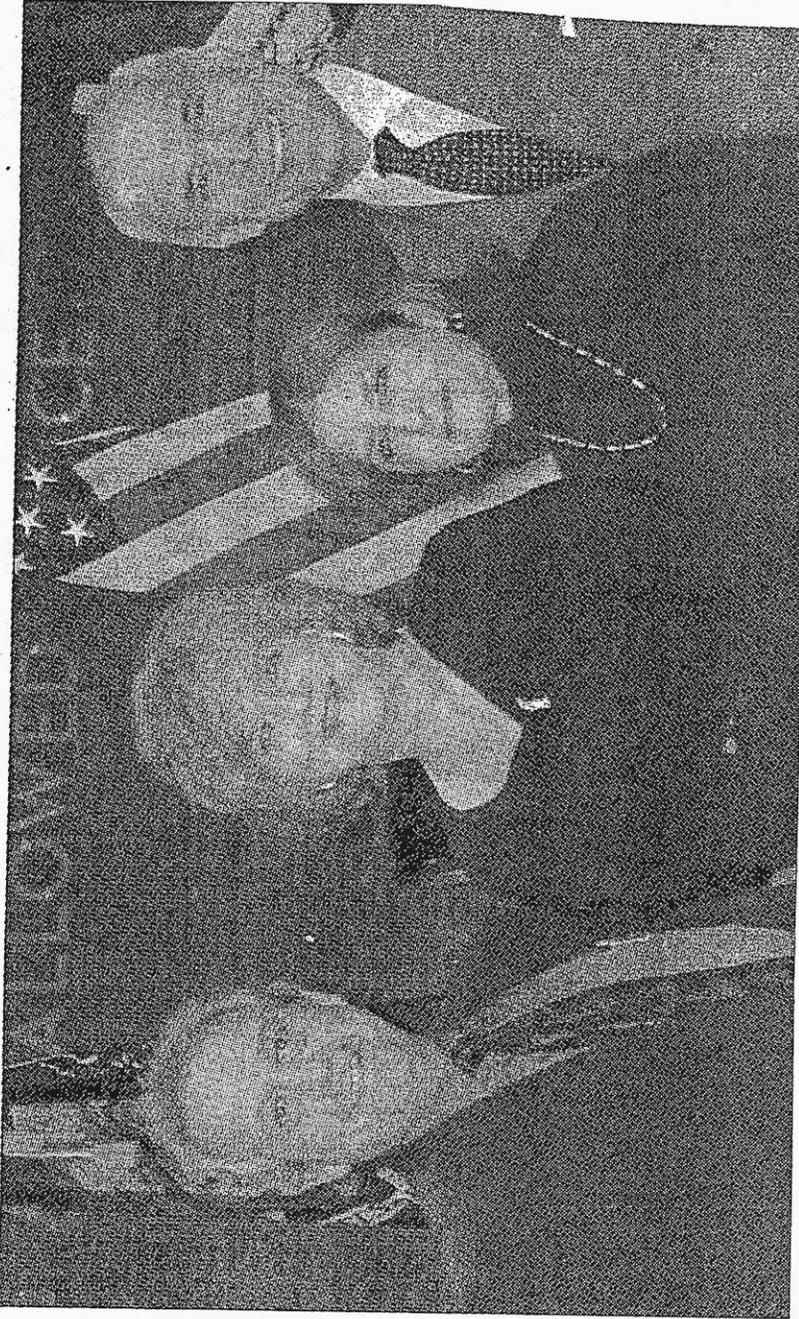
ADAMS STREET — The fourth annual 'Ruthie Awards' were presented yesterday at the Brooklyn Supreme Court, Civil Term.

Named for the late Hon. Ruth E. Moskowitz, the awards are presented each year by the court's Gender Fairness Committee during Women's History Month. Justice Moskowitz was among the first women to graduate from Brooklyn Law School in the 1950s and participated in Freedom Rides that landed her in a Mississippi jail. She became one of the first women to join the state court bench in the late 1970s.

Yesterday, the Ruth E. Moskowitz Award was presented to Hon. Michael Pesce, presiding judge, Appellate Term; Chief Clerk Edward Volpe, Civil Term; and Secretary Margaret Balles.

**Honorees: Chief Clerk  
Edward Volpe, Civil Term;  
Secretary Margaret Balles;**

**Ann Lyons, Judge  
Moskowitz's twin sister and  
Hon. Michael Pesce, presiding  
judge, Appellate Term.**



## A Legacy of Independence And Compassion

Justice Michael Pesce, who presented the first Ruth E. Moskowitz Awards in 2002, said they have special significance to him. He accepted his award from Justice Matthew D'Emic, co-chair of the Gender Fairness Committee.

As a reform Democrat legislator in the early 1970s, Pesce was asked to endorse Moskowitz in her first campaign for the bench. Later, they became friends and colleagues on the State Supreme Court.

The trend toward special courts may have started before Justice Pesce became administrative judge, but he was in charge when the first felony domestic violence part in the state opened in Brooklyn, and when the mental health court opened here.

"Besides being a strong leader, he's always thinking of other people," Administrative Judge Firetog said of Justice Pesce, calling him a mentor. "He has a sterling career as a legislator and a judge, and has also volunteered for many charitable organizations" over the years.

"When we are born," Justice Pesce said, we have "the opportunity to build integrity." An individual builds integrity by his or her choices and decisions, Justice Pesce said. "Ruth was my role model."

"What we do in our lives makes life's journey pleasurable," he continued. "The key milestones in our journey are the friends that we make." Many still treasure Justice Moskowitz's friendship.

"Her love affair with the staff of this building is well-known," Civil Term Chief Clerk Edward Volpe said last week, as he accepted his award from Judge Miriam Cyrulnik.

"Ruthie was smart, tough for sure, outspoken, dedicated to her community," said Judge Cyrulnik, a 2002 Moskowitz Award recipient, as she presented the award to Volpe.

Volpe, too, is "Dedicated, caring, kind and tough when he needs to be," Judge Cyrulnik said. She applauded the way he tackles each pilot project from the state Office of Court Administration (Brooklyn has had several), and strives to make them user-friendly.

Volpe started working in the Brooklyn courts 28 years ago, as a Supreme Court Officer.

When he began, there were two women in Brooklyn Supreme's Civil Term: a clerk and a typist. Now, he said, the court "is home to the most diverse workforce statewide." Volpe worked with Justice Moskowitz in the late 1970s.

He remembered only one problem transpiring between an attorney and Justice Moskowitz. The lawyer apologized and was forgiven by the judge — "but not entirely by her staff," Volpe said.

Mostly, Volpe remembered Justice Moskowitz's fairness and reputation for judging litigants "not by who they are but by what they are."

Chief Clerk Volpe has served as president of the Amicus Curiae, an organization that collects money for charity. Like Justice Moskowitz, he also belongs to a tight-knit family. Susan, his wife of 23 years, and their son Joseph both work nearby in Downtown Brooklyn. Volpe's daughter, Jenna, is in college but joined the family for last week's ceremony.

Finally, Justice D'Emic presented the Moskowitz Award to his secretary, Margaret Balles. She previously worked for the FBI and Pan Am. In Brooklyn Supreme Court, she serves as CLE liaison to the Judicial Institute and coordinates several other court programs and events.

"I am both honored and very, very touched to receive this award," Balles said.

Frederick C. Arriaga, Esq., of the Borough President's Office, presented citations to the three honorees for "making Brooklyn a better place to live, work and raise a family."

Moskowitz's husband, Martin Gershon, said "She would be very appreciative" of the Awards. "It's too bad it's posthumous."

Among many local leaders in attendance were Brooklyn Bar Association President Lawrence DiGiovanna and Kings County Clerk Nancy T. Sunshine. Judges in the audience included Justices Anne Feldman, Hon. Gustin Reichbach and Hon. John Leventhal, among others.

"She was a gutsy person who was never afraid to speak out," Justice Feldman said of Justice Moskowitz.

Justice Moskowitz's husband, Martin, sons Robert and Joel, and twin sister, Ann Lyons, attended the ceremony at 360 Adams St.

"I really can't say enough about how touched our family is that the court system has continued to offer these awards," Joel said. "I wish she could still be with us in the flesh, but she is still alive for many of us in our hearts, and on this particular day, her spirit is shining even more so."

## '(Women) Builders of Communities and Dreams'

ADAMS STREET — It is perhaps rare, these days, to hear of a woman who is outspoken, independent and universally well-liked.

Almost ten years after Justice Ruth E. Moskowitz's untimely death, the fourth annual 'Ruthie Awards' at Brooklyn Supreme Court last week were an opportunity for family and colleagues to remember their friend and honor her principles.

The court's Gender Fairness Committee selected three award recipients this year: Hon. Michael Pesce, presiding justice of the Appellate Term and former Administrative Judge of Brooklyn Supreme Court; Chief Clerk Edward Volpe; and Margaret Balles, secretary to Justice Matthew D'Emic.

"When I think of Judge Moskowitz, I think of a very independent judge and a very compassionate judge," Administrative Judge Neil J. Firetog said. Her legacy is alive in the honorees selected for this year's Moskowitz Award, speakers said last week.

"Besides being strong leaders, they're always thinking of other people and trying to make the courts a friendlier place," Judge Firetog said of the honorees.

Justice Moskowitz's son Joel Gershon, now a journalist in Bangkok, spoke at the program.

The awards ensure that she will not be forgotten, that her principles are recognized, and that her friends and colleagues have an opportunity to gather in her memory, Joel Gershon said.

"These awards truly help me deal with her absence from my life," he said. "It always brings a smile to my face that you have bestowed such an honor and remembrance to my mother."

## A Principled Life

Justice Moskowitz grew up in Borough Park. She earned a bachelor's in sociology from Brooklyn College and a master's from the University of Connecticut. In the summer of 1961, she joined the civil rights movement.

On a mission to integrate a Jackson, Miss., lunch counter, she was arrested and charged with trespassing.

"She gave up her freedom so that other people who were being discriminated against could eventually enjoy theirs," Joel said.

Legend has it Moskowitz decided to become a lawyer while sitting in solitary confinement in a Mississippi jail. She came home to attend Brooklyn Law School. After graduating in 1964, Moskowitz worked for Legal Aid and was elected to the bench in the 1970s.

In her successful campaign for Civil Court, Moskowitz used the slogan, "From Jail to Judge," her son said.

She went on to earn a reputation as an outspoken, independent, hardworking and compassionate judge.

In the 1980s, Justice Moskowitz faced public criticism for her sentencing of former parking-meter collectors who had pocketed several

thousand dollars. Because they had no prior records, she ordered sentences that did not include jail time, fines, or restitution.

Mayor Koch himself appeared in court to support the people's demand for heavier sentences. But he received only a reprimand for his trouble. Justice Moskowitz suggested he concern himself with supervising his administration, and declined to amend her decision.

The defendants may have been "litttle people," but they had the same rights as "the big boys," she said, alluding to politically connected officials involved in corruption scandals.

Moskowitz died in Brooklyn Heights after a long illness in 1996, at the age of 60. It took five more years before one case was upheld in federal court.

Her 1994 decision in *Boyette v. Lafevre*, finding that the prosecutor withheld material exculpatory documents and vacating the defendant's conviction, was finally affirmed by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in 2001.

## The 'Ruthie Awards' Presented at Brooklyn Supreme Court



From left to right: Martin Gershon; his sons, Robert and Joel Gershon; Chief Clerk Edward Volpe, Civil Term; Secretary Margaret Balles; Ann Lyons, Judge Moskowitz's twin sister; Hon. Michael Pesce, presiding judge, Appellate Term; and Hon. Matthew J. D'Emic, co-chair of the Gender Fairness Committee.

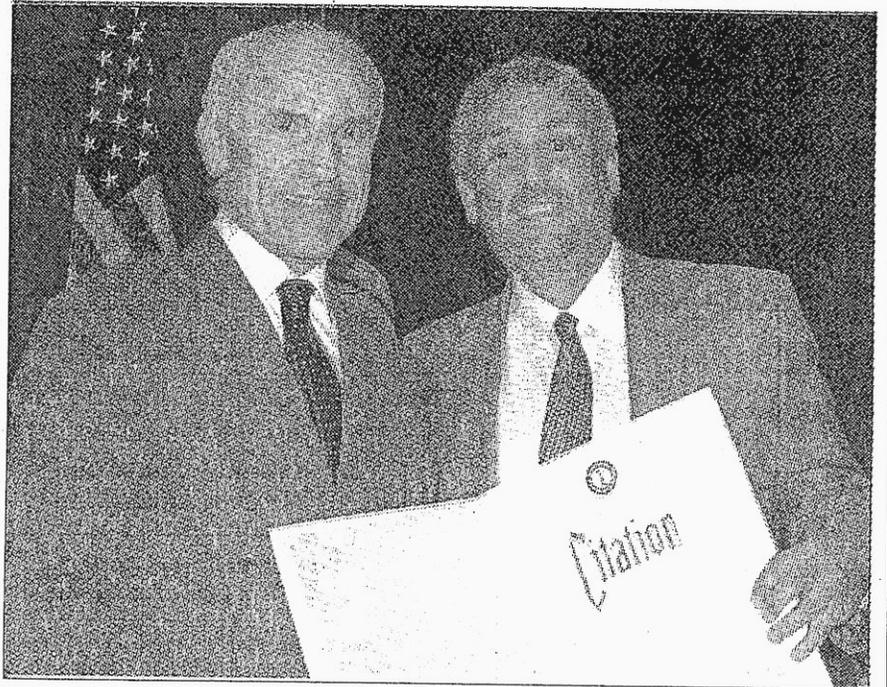
Photos by Mario Belluomo



**Chief Clerk Ed Volpe and  
Judge Miriam Cyrulnik**



**Honoree Margaret Balles, secretary, accepted her  
'Ruthie' Award from Justice Matthew J. D'Emic.**



**Hon. Michael Pesce, presiding justice, Kings County Appellate Term,  
and Frederick C. Arriaga, counsel to the Brooklyn Borough President.**

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

This year the Gender Fairness Committees of Kings Supreme Court, Kings Family Court and Kings Criminal Court joined together to present the DV Awareness Month Program.

On October 26, 2006, resource tables (staffed by the Family Justice Center) were set up at Kings Supreme Court - Criminal Term and Civil Term, Kings Family Court and Kings Criminal Court.

Guest speaker was Anne Butler, a domestic violence survivor, who was shot by her husband, a prison warden. She later wrote a book, "Weep for the Living," describing her brush with death. Another scheduled speaker Irvin Magri was unable to attend.

Approximately 120 people attended the program, which concluded with a question and answer period. A light reception followed.

Gender Fairness Committee of Kings County Supreme Court  
Honorable Matthew D'Emic - Chair

Gender Fairness Committee of Kings County Family Court  
Lesley Friedland, Esq. & Angela Gammone - Co-Chairs

Honorable Neil J. Firetog - Administrative Judge,  
Kings County Supreme Court Criminal Term

Honorable Theodore T. Jones - Administrative Judge,  
Kings County Supreme Court Civil Term

Honorable Jane Pearl - Supervising Judge  
Kings County Family Court

Honorable William Miller - Supervising Judge  
Kings County Criminal Court

Honorable Miriam Cyrulnik  
Kings County Criminal Court

James Imperatrice - Chief Clerk  
Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Edward Volpe - Chief Clerk  
Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term

Joe Rebasti & Staff

Barbara McKay & Barbara Parks

Family Justice Center

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hon. Gloria Dabiri     | Hon. Sarah Krauss     |
| Hon. John Leventhal    | Hon. Ellen Spodek     |
| Hon. Marsha Steinhardt | Hon. Nancy Sunshine   |
| Loretta Argiro         | Captain Luz Bryan     |
| Lesley Friedland, Esq. | Angela Gammone        |
| Marcia Margolin, Esq.  | Jezebel Walter        |
|                        | Izetta Johnson, Chair |

The Gender Fairness Committees  
of the Kings County Supreme & Family Courts  
In recognition of

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH**

**ANNE BUTLER**  
Domestic Violence Survivor, Author

&

**IRVIN MAGRI, JR.**  
Former Chairman Louisiana State Pardon Board

Thursday, October 26, 2006  
1:00 P.M.

Kings County Supreme Court  
320 Jay Street  
Brooklyn, New York  
Ceremonial Courtroom

## ANNE BUTLER

A quiet, well educated mother of two, St. Francisville, Louisiana author Anne Butler worked as a journalist, editor, writer and is the author of several hair-raising non-fiction crime books.

Anne Butler frequently address the issue of domestic violence on television (The Montel Williams Show, Sally Jesse Raphael and Court TV with Catherine Cryer), at speaking engagements and anger management courses. Last year she was a featured speaker at the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence statewide convention for more than 500 professionals in the field.

As a writer, she certainly never intended to be more than an objective observer, but when she became a crime victim herself, she wrote a riveting book on that experience (Weep for the Living, Pelican Publishing Co.) To give a voice to what has too often been a silent crime. Ms Butler was shot five times at point-blank range by her husband, a former well-connected prison warden and state corrections commissioner.

## IRVIN MAGRI, JR.

There is no individual who can better address these issues than Mr. Irvin L. Magri, Jr., Criminologist, longtime veteran of the New Orleans Police Department and former Chairman of the Louisiana State Pardon Board, who lost his job as Chair, after resisting political pressure to release the perpetrator in this case. He joins Ms. Butler in speaking, adding his own unique perspective.

Mr. Magri's career accomplishments are too many to name. However, he made over 3,013 physical arrests during his law enforcement career, hosted two police television shows ("Crimewave" and "The Detectives"), and was the recipient of 102 Community Service Awards.

## PROGRAM

Opening Remarks & Introduction Of Mistress Of Ceremony ...	Honorable Matthew D'Emic Chair, Kings County Supreme Court, Gender Fairness Committee
Mistress of Ceremony ...	Honorable Miriam Cyrulnik Kings County Criminal Court Domestic Violence Part
Presentation ...	Anne Butler Domestic Violence Survivor, Author
Q & A ...	Irvin Magri Former Chairman Louisiana State Pardon Board
Resources ...	Honorable Miriam Cyrulnik Jennifer DeCarli Assistant Director Family Justice Center



### Resource Tables Set-Up and Staffed By Family Justice Center At The Following Courts

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.:

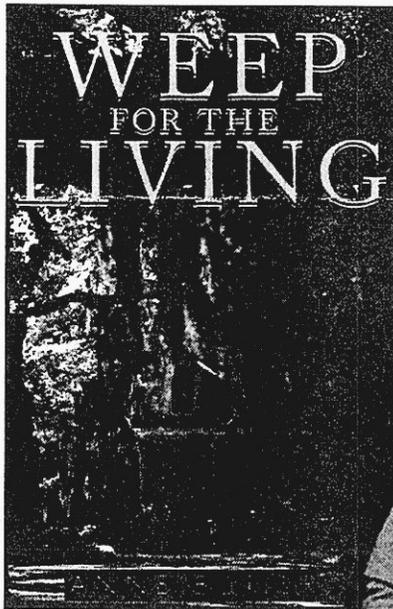
Kings Supreme Court Criminal Term	320 Jay St.	1st & 2nd Floors
Kings Supreme Court Civil Term	360 Adams St.	2nd Floor Lobby
Kings Family Court	330 Jay St.	Petition Room
Kings Criminal Court	120 Schemerhorn St.	1st Floor Lobby

The Gender Fairness Committees of the Supreme and Family Courts, Kings County  
in recognition of Domestic Violence Month

WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKERS

**ANNE BUTLER**  
and  
**IRVIN MAGRI, JR.**

Shot five times at point blank range,  
Anne Butler's incredible experience is absolutely unbelievable!



**Irvin Magri's reasons for leaving  
the Pardon Board are just as shocking.**

**AUTHOR  
ANNE BUTLER**

A quiet, well-educated mother of two, St. Francisville, Louisiana author Anne Butler worked as a journalist, editor, writer and is the author of several hair-raising non-fiction crime books.

Anne Butler frequently addresses the issue of domestic violence on television (The Montel Williams Show, Sally Jesse Raphael and Court TV with Catherine Cryer), at speaking engagements and anger management courses. Last year she was a featured speaker at the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence statewide convention for more than 500 professionals in the field.

As a writer, she certainly never intended to be more than an objective observer, but when she became a crime victim herself, she wrote a riveting book on that experience (Weep for the Living, Pelican Publishing Co.) To give a voice to what has too often been a silent crime. **Ms. Butler was shot five times at point-blank range by her husband, a former well-connected prison warden and state corrections commissioner.**

**FORMER NOPD OFFICER  
IRVIN MAGRI**

There is no individual who can better address these issues than Mr. Irvin L. Magri, Jr., Criminologist, longtime veteran of the New Orleans Police Department and former Chairman of the Louisiana State Pardon Board, who lost his job as Chair, after resisting political pressure to release the perpetrator in this case. He joins Ms. Butler in speaking, adding his own unique perspective.

Mr. Magri's career accomplishments are too many to name. However, he made over 3,013 physical arrests during his law enforcement career, hosted two police television shows ("Crimewave" and "The Detectives"), and was the recipient of 102 Community Service Awards.

**Thursday, October 26, 2006  
1:00 PM**

**Supreme Court, Kings County  
320 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY  
Ceremonial Court Room 2.83**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

For further information  
contact Izzetta Johnson  
347-296-1231

EMAIL: [ijohnson@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:ijohnson@courts.state.ny.us)  
FAX: 347-296-1983

---

**Ms. Butler and Mr. Magri make a fantastic team speaking on the subject of domestic violence.**

**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT! IT'S NOT FICTION, IT'S PURE FACT!**

Both will be available to speak with you after the program  
and Ms. Butler will be happy to autograph copies of her book Weep for the Living.

## *From Bayou Country to Brooklyn: Author Tells of Abuse Nightmare*

### At Court Event, She Stresses the Seriousness of Domestic Violence

*By Audrey An*

Special to Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BROOKLYN — Butler Greenwood Plantation is deep in bayou country. Just 30 miles north of Baton Rouge, it looks like the sort of place where Southern belles would wear white gloves to their cotillions and men would duel after evening dinner parties of crawfish and petit fours.

Nestled between huge towering oaks draped with moss and filled with ornate gilded 19th century furniture, this was where Anne Butler, sitting on a porch that's been in her family for generations, was shot five times at point-blank range by her husband. It was 1997, on a Sunday.

She was lucid enough after the first few shots to still talk. "How am I going to take care of the children?" she asked him. Her husband replied, "Space, you want space? How about this for space?" and continued to shoot her. She had moved out seven days earlier, intending to seek a divorce.

These quotes were taken from Butler's speech on Thursday, Oct. 26, at Kings County Supreme Court. (*For another view of the same event, see the article by Ben Fleming, page 14.*)

Since her shooting, she has since penned a book on her experiences, *Weep for the Living*. In recognition of October Domestic Violence Month, the Gender Fairness Committee of



**Anne Butler, author of  
*Weep for the Living* and  
domestic violence victim.**

*Eagle photo by Mario Belluomo*

Kings County Supreme Court gathered together various aid organizations, court employees and the general public in a courtroom to listen to her testimony.

Butler is a petite woman with short, spiky blond hair and ruddy cheeks. In a calm, even voice that slowly grew hoarse, she detailed her brush with death at the hands of her husband. She also spoke about the subsequent legal

*Please turn to page 2*

# From Bayou Country to Brooklyn: Author Tells of Abuse Nightmare

Continued from page 1

ordeals, from when the police first arrived and tackled her husband to the ground, to the flamboyant antics of his defense attorney, to sentencing and requests for pardon.

It was an intimate study of a domestic violence case, from execution to its strange journey through the organs of Louisiana's judicial system. The audience, comprised mostly of young professional women, sat rapt.

The man who shot her was C. Murray Henderson, her second husband, commissioner of the Louisiana State Penitentiary and onetime corrections director for the state of Tennessee.

Back in the '50s, Louisiana State Penitentiary, also called Angola after the town in which it's situated, was known for being one of the worst prisons in the U.S. Today, with an estimated 5,000 inmates, it remains the largest prison in the U.S.

He took away part of her kidney, some intestines, destroyed her right elbow, shattered her right shoulder, and missed her spine by five inches. When the sheriff's deputies arrived, he was still standing over her, holding his gun.

"He was a man who exercised absolute control throughout his entire life, his entire career. That day when he picked up a gun was probably the first instance he's ever lost control," says Butler.

## Warning Signs

For experts, the warning sign of an abusive partner often involves control. According to the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project based in Duluth, Minn., domestic violence cases often involve power and control, manifesting into a pattern of manipulation in all its ugly forms, whether it's emotional, physical, or financial.

Butler reflects, "Sometimes control is not something that you would notice quite so visibly as a black eye."

According to the New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV), the NYPD responds to an average of 620 domestic violence incidents a day. As of this July, 7,017 calls came from teens.

In Brooklyn, seventeen people have died this year as of Sept. 30 due to family-related homicides.

The Center for Disease Control and

Prevention estimates that one in four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime.

Many victims are society's most vulnerable, such as teenagers, the elderly, the disabled, or immigrant women who do not speak English and depend completely on their husbands for support. According to OCDV, foreign-born women are at greater risk of being killed than any other group of women.

Against the backdrop of this violence, there operates a fervent network of organizations and volunteers.

The Kings County District Attorney's Office (KCDA), for example, sponsors many programs, including the Central Brooklyn Domestic Violence Program, Teen Program, Barrier Free Justice [for women from the deaf or disabled community], Project Eden [culturally sensitive support], and the Family Justice Center.

The KCDA also operates a Counseling Services Unit, which offers access to social workers and therapists as quickly as within 24 hours of an arrest. Therapy can be either short or ongoing, for children or adults, and victims from a host of violent crimes are

eligible, including elder abuse, assault, and rape.

For Butler, some of this support would have been helpful. Not only was her husband released on bail within 24 hours of shooting her, while she was still in the hospital, but the court community was so familiar with her politically-connected husband that an outside prosecutor had to be brought in when the district attorney recused himself.

"In my case, there was no help. No victims' program, no battered women's program. There was just the sheriff."

Today, Ms. Butler operates a bed and breakfast at her family estate, and is filled with gratitude: "I was carried in the arms of angels," she says. "The perp is dead [her husband died in prison] and even the DA is dead."

She smiles. "And here I am."

# Domestic Abuse Survivor Tells Her Story At Gathering in B'klyn Supreme Court

Anne Butler Describes How Her Husband, a Correction Officer, Opened Fire on Her

By Ben Fleming

Special to Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BROOKLYN — The bullets had barely been removed from Anne Butler's body when the sheriff's deputies showed up at her hospital bed. They wanted to know why her husband, a well-known correction officer, had shot her five times at point-blank range.

Even at that awful and sudden moment, the answer was obvious. "Control."

An author and domestic violence survivor, Butler told an audience gathered at Kings County Supreme Court Thursday afternoon, on the tail end of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, that the control issues of a partner or spouse can often portend worse things to come.

"It's not something you notice as vividly as a black eye or someone committing real violence," Butler said. "It's more subtle. It can be anybody's face. But it is real."

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is still less than 20 years old, and Butler gave the keynote address in a presentation arranged to put the spotlight on a problem with which Brooklyn is all too familiar.

Brooklyn institutions have long been at the fore in the struggle to stem domestic violence. Its successful Family Domestic Violence Court, which opened in June of 1996, has since been copied in more than 20 cities and counties across the state. That was followed in 2003 by the Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Court, a system targeted at teenage offenders that was the first of its kind in the nation.

For victims, the program includes successful victim's advocacy and clear links to social services. Defendants are often assigned to a 12-week curriculum called STEPS, a violence prevention program, and their progress is monitored. Later, the court has the uncommon ability to monitor both probationers and parolees.

"Now, this is common practice," said Jezebel Walter, a resource coordinator with the court. "When we did it, was completely radical."

All month long, groups across the city have held events to highlight both the problem and the potential remedies, including the day-to-day options available to victims. Thursday's efforts included daylong resource outreach in Brooklyn courts by the Family Justice Center, a city agency dedicated to streamline access to legal and social services.

"Anyone who feels they are a vic-



Chief Judge Neil Firetog, Brooklyn Supreme Court, Criminal Term.

tim of domestic violence can come in and feel like they can access all of these resources in one location," said Jennifer DeCarli, the center's assistant director.

Standing at the podium on a crisp October afternoon, invited speaker Butler seemed to bear little resemblance to the victims who usually appear in Brooklyn courts. She is the author of 14 books, including a treatment ("Weep for the Living") of her own ordeal. She has relayed her case to television audiences in a soft Louisiana drawl, earning widespread attention.

## A Silent Crime

"Being a crime writer already, it gave me a unique opportunity to give voice to what has too often been a silent crime," she said.

Unlike many victims, her case offered no history of chronic abuse or violence. She was not financially dependent on her abuser. Her two children were from a previous marriage.

But those contrasts only served to highlight the extent to which domestic violence is able to creep into every corner of the country.

"We thought it would make a stronger statement to have a survivor speak," said Izetta Johnson, the chair of the program committee. "This stuff crosses all lines, socioeconomic and racial."

Butler described how her husband, the former warden at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, walked into her house on a Sunday morning in 1997 while the two were in the



Anne Butler, domestic abuse survivor and author of "Weep for the Living."

chair, Butler looked up to see him point a revolver at her from 18 inches away, and open fire.

She was struck five times. One bullet destroyed her right elbow. Another missed her spine by a half-inch. While he stood over her slumped body, Butler feigned death for the better part of two hours before authorities arrived to make their initial arrest.

Considering the suspect was a well-connected corrections officer who "knew every judge and lawyer in the state," Butler's ordeal had barely begun. ("Louisiana don't have much to teach Brooklyn about domestic violence, but we've got plenty to teach about corruption," she said.) Butler's husband was out on bail within 24

hours, and free to terrorize her and her children in the months leading up to the trial.

But Butler stressed the importance of allowing forgiveness to sneak into a victim's heart at some point along the way. Otherwise, she said, the anger at the crime stays fresh, and through that, the perpetrator maintains a measure of control over his target. And control is the key.

"Raising awareness of the problem for everyone is critically important," said Judge Miriam Cyrulnik, the presiding judge in the Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Court. "Especially for the advocates in the audience who might have been doubting why they do what they do. This is why."



**Kings County Supreme Court  
Justice Cheryl Chambers.**

*Eagle photos by Mario Belluomo*



**Hon. Miriam Cyrulnik, presiding  
judge, Youthful Offender Domes-  
tic Violence Court.**

