

ANNUAL REPORTS

LOCAL GENDER BIAS AND GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES

2011-2012

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Christopher Cahill, Chair

Patricia Beeler, Co-Chair

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2011-2012

Name of the Committee: 3RD JD Gender Fairness Committee

Name and Title of Chair: Hon. Christopher Cahill, Co Chair: Patricia A. Beeler

Members (names and titles) Albany County: Lisa Frisch, ED Legal Project; Hon. Helena Heath-Roland, Alb City Court Judge; Michael Hutter, Esq., Prof Alb Law School; Hon. Rachel Kretser, Albany City Court-Criminal Part; Hon. Rika Murray, Support Magistrate, Alb Co Family Court; Lorraine Remo, Esq.; Hon. Leslie Stein, Assoc Justice, App Div 3RD Dept.; Matthew Side, Chambers, Hon. William McCarthy, Assoc Justice App Div 3RD Dept.; Jill Swingruber, Esq., Court of Claims; Columbia County: Diana Morelock, Chief Clerk, Columbia Co Multi-Bench Courts; Virginia Benedict, Esq.; Greene County: Edward Kaplan, Esq.; Brenda VanDermark, Chief Clerk, Greene County Family Court; Rensselaer County: Patricia A. Beeler, Retired Chief Clerk, Renss County Family Court (Co Chair); Hon. Andrew Ceresia, Renss County Court, Judge; Karen DeBenedetto, Chief Clerk, Troy City Court; Betsy Helm, Sr. Court Reporter Renss Supreme and County Court; Nancy Jones, Esq.; Patrick Tomaselli, Esq.; Schoharie County: Hon. F. Christian Spies, Chief Clerk, Schoharie Supreme and County Court; Sullivan County: Hon. Karen Linen, Support Magistrate, Sullivan County, Ulster County: Hon. Christopher Cahill, Supreme Court Justice (Chair); Administration: Sheila Horton, Court Analyst, Albany County Comm of Jurors.

Dates of Meetings: Meetings were held either quarterly or at bi-monthly intervals during 2011-2012. The Committee had several interesting speakers, who presented on interesting and related topics at our meetings throughout the year. Of particular note was a presentation by Assistant Chief Brendan Cox, from the Albany County Police Dept. Asst Chief Cox spoke on many issues the department is focusing on in the areas of Domestic Violence, Community Policing, Juvenile and Family Units as well as mediation and its role with the police and the community.

Average Attendance: Attendance averaged from 10 - 25 individuals

Do you have access to Video Conferencing? Yes. Have you used it? It has not been necessary or used to date. If so, how often? N/A

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012.

October 22nd from 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Albany Law School, Room 200

Event: A panel of judges from different levels of the judiciary will discuss their path to the bench and explore issues pertaining to gender diversity and the findings from a 2012 report published by the Center for Women in Government on the status of women in the State and Federal Courts in New York.

Details: Panelists are Presiding Justice Karen Peters, Appellate Division, Third Dept., Associate Justice Leslie Stein, Appellate Division, Third Dept., Fourth Judicial District Supreme Court Justice Ann Crowell, Schenectady County Family Court Judge Christine Clark, and Albany City Court Judge Helena Heath-Roland.

The sponsors of this program include CDWBA's Judicial Task Force and the Diversity and Gender Fairness Committee, and Albany Law School's Women Law Caucus and the American Constitution Society.

Also, in conjunction with DV Awareness Month, Third JD Administrative Judge, Hon. George B. Ceresia, Jr., together with the Committee, invited all Third JD employees to wear purple in October to promote domestic violence awareness.

Activities for Women's History Month 2012.

Program: **The Gender Gap and the Pursuit of Justice: Overcoming the Barriers**

Presented in Honor of Women's History Month

When: Thursday, March 1, 2012
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Where: The New York State Bar Association
One Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207

A presentation was held in recognition of Women's History Month, focusing on major barriers facing women in the courts such as poverty, immigration status, lack of security of employment, domestic violence and the scarcity of affordable child care. The excellent presentation and ensuing lively discussion explored all of the recent efforts that the courts have made to help respond to these obstacles and ideas for additional ways to

enhance women's access to justice. The event held at the New York State Bar Center in Albany was extremely well attended, with over 60 attorneys, judges, civil legal services programs, law students, Fellows from the U Albany Center for Women in Government, court staff and community advocates attended the presentation and the reception with light refreshments sponsored by NYSBA, held after.

The program was presented by Sarah Rogerson, Esq., Assistant Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Family Violence Litigation Clinic, at Albany Law School. There were introductions by Gender Fairness Committee Member, Hon. Helena Heath Roland and Hon. Christopher Cahill, Chair, Gender Fairness Committee of the Third Judicial District. A roundtable discussion followed by Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq., Ricja Rice, Esq., representing the Capital District Women's Bar Association and Ellen Schell, Esq., from The Legal Project (The Legal Project's Executive Director is a member of the Committee). Cosponsored by: the Gender Fairness Committee of the Third Judicial District, NYSBA, CDWBA, Albany Law School and the Albany Law School Women's Caucus, The Legal Project, and the Albany County Bar Association. Committee Co-Chair Patricia Beeler and Committee Member Lisa Frisch, Executive Director of The Legal Project, assisted in planning and coordinating this successful event. The Committee received excellent feedback from participants on the importance and utility of this presentation, which was so timely given the rising economic pressures that are exacerbated by gender, and which seriously impact access to justice. The presentation and ensuing discussion did not only focus on challenges and obstacles, but on creative ways to overcome them.

Other Activities in the Past Year?

What are your plans for next year?

We are planning on another exciting collaborative event in March of 2013 for Women's History month. We hope to once again partner with The Legal Project, The Capital District Women's Bar, The Albany County Bar, and hopefully local

Domestic Violence organizations on the state and local level to offer a program on a Best Practices in DV Cases in Family and/or Criminal cases. Addressing concepts such as “When Victim’s are Defendant’s”; speaking to legal issues for attorney’s as their client’s legal advocate (hopefully w/ CLE credit) focusing on victim centered practices, the Do’s and Don’ts Safety; Accountability and Advocacy; working in Partnership with DV Advocates. Also including the concepts of communication; confidentiality and information dissemination. Ideas/concepts on “How to access support for the Individual who is accused of a crime AND is a victim of DV.

What have been the biggest challenges or obstacles you have met in the last year?

We are fortunate to report that we have not encountered any obstacles. We are privileged to have such a supportive community and such collaborative relationships with our partners within and outside of the court system.

This Committee is fortunate to engage in and share fruitful collaborations with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects?

The 3 RD Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee is fortunate and pleased to share these collaborative relationships, shared goals and initiatives for programs and projects with various agencies, outside of the court system, such as; The Legal Project, Unity House, Inc., The Capital District Women’s Bar Association, The Albany County Bar Assoc, the Albany Law School, as well as other Bar Associations, State and local Domestic Violence Awareness Agencies and community organizations.

Have you organized or helped to organize any programs on human trafficking? This year? None in 2012 In past years? No, but we are excited to announce that we hope to co sponsor an event in Spring of 2013 with the Legal Project and their Executive Director Lisa Frish. Lisa shares the following, in part with this Committee, “I have been exploring the idea of a conference on Human Trafficking for the spring—which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Crime Victims Awareness Month—for which the planning can begin in DV Awareness Month. The conference can be cosponsored by our committee, and perhaps some others and we could work with the New York Anti-Trafficking Coalition to implement it.”

**Please submit your annual report by Oct. 15, 2012 to:
Jill Goodman at Jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us**

Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair

Tatiana Coffinger, Vice-Chair

Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq. Vice-Chair

Eleanor DeCoursey, Esq., Vice-Chair

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2011-2012

Name of the Committee: 4th Judicial District Women in the Courts

Name and Title of Chair: Judge Polly A. Hoye, Fulton County Judge & Surrogate

Members: Co-chairs: Tatiana Coffinger, Eleanor DeCoursey, Elena Jaffe
Tastensen (balance of committee not established)

Dates of Meetings: Meetings by telephone and email only due to geographic distances

Average Attendance: N/A

Do you have access to Video Conferencing? Have you used it? If so, how often?
-We have used it in the past, but the technology is imperfect, making it difficult to communicate effectively. Also, 2 co-chairs do not have easy access to locations where equipment is located.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012

Fulton County:

October 1, 2012: Johnstown, NY; "Walk Against the Violence", sponsored by Fulton County Domestic Violence Task Force.

October 16, 2012: Johnstown, NY; "What's Our Common Issue?", Domestic Violence Policy and Procedure Panel Discussion, sponsored by Fulton County Domestic Violence Task Force (see attached flyer).

October 23, 2012: Amsterdam, NY; Appreciation Luncheon with presentation, "Engaging Men in Prevention Efforts to End Violence & Discrimination against Women & Girls" (see attached flyer).

Washington County, October 17, 2012: "Wear Purple Day" to promote Domestic Violence Awareness, participants were court employees in Washington County Courthouse.

Activities for Women's History Month 2012

March, 2012: Johnstown, NY; Banner Display (see attached news article).

Other Activities in the Past Year

February 3, 2012: District-wide; "National Wear Red Day", to fight heart disease in women, promoted by Adirondack Women's Bar Association.

April 24, 2012: Johnstown, NY; Crime Victims Rights Week luncheon with speaker, Victoria Crompton-Tetter, co-author of "Saving Beauty from the Beast, How to Protect Your Daughter from an Unhealthy Relationship" (see attached flyer).

June 12, 2012: Johnstown, NY; DV Task Force quarterly meeting with speaker, Carol Groudons, "Domestic Violence & the Effects on Children" (see attached flyer).

November 4, 2012: Gloversville, NY, Celebration of Women's Voting Rights, a one woman show featuring actress Sally Matson portraying Susan B. Anthony (see attached news clipping).

Ongoing: Glens Falls, NY; "Legal Clinic to Aid Victims of Domestic Violence", organized by the Adirondack Women's Bar Association and held monthly (see attached flyer).

What are your plans for next year? -We will be working on trying to bring a program on trafficking to our area and trying to find ways to make our local committee more effective.

What have been the biggest challenges or obstacles you have met in the last year? -We have been individually very busy with work, making it difficult to find the time to meet and formulate ideas and plans.

Have had fruitful collaborations with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects? -We are in regular contact with local bar associations and domestic violence task forces, promoting ideas and helping publicize events of interest.

Have you organized (or helped to organize) any programs on human trafficking? This year? -Not yet, although we are working on trying to get a speaker for a program in the near future on this topic. In past years? -No.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly A. Hoye, Chair

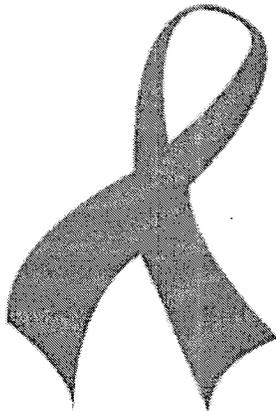
What's our common issue?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE PANEL DISCUSSION

Sponsored by the
Fulton County
Domestic Violence
Task Force

Panelists include:

Integrated Domestic Violence Court
Judge, Probation Department,
Addiction Services, the
Department of Social Services,
Victims advocates, and
Medical Professionals



Moderated by
Louise Sira, District Attorney

Date: October 16, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM

Location:

St. Johns Episcopal Church ,
1 North Main Street
Johnstown NY 12095

Topics to be discussed include:

- Service Providers roles relating to Domestic Violence
- Domestic Violence trends in Fulton County
- How can we improve to better assist Domestic Violence Victims

Seating is limited and open

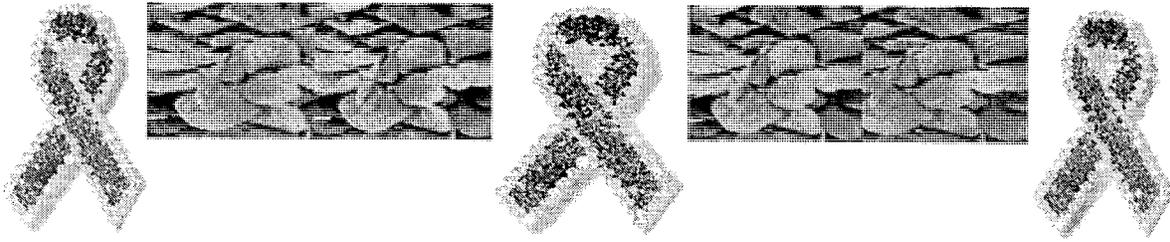
to agency representatives only

Please RSVP by October 5, 2012

to Lisa Bonificio at 518-725-4310

Ext 121 or

lbonificio@thefamilycounselingcenter.org



*In Recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness
Month*

& In appreciation for all you do

The Fulton County Domestic Violence Task Force

Is cordially inviting you to attend a Luncheon to be held at

The Raindancer Restaurant

October 23, 2012 at 12:00 noon

4582 State Highway 30, Amsterdam, New York 12010

Sponsored by the Fulton County Domestic Violence Program of the Family Counseling Center

RSVP: by October 18, 2012

By contacting the Domestic Violence Program 725-5300

email kinsogna@thefamilycounselingcenter.org

or lbonificio@thefamilycounselingcenter.org

Presentation:

**"Engaging Men in Prevention Efforts to End
Violence and Discrimination against Women
and Girls"**

Guest Speakers

Jeanne Noordsy, DVCCC/DELTA Coordinator

Domestic Violence Project of Warren & Washington Counties

&

Bill Schaefer, of Northern New York Call to Men



4-2-12

Banners bring attention to equality of women

JOHNSTOWN - Downtown lampposts are displaying women's equality banners.

They were put up in celebration of Women's History Month, which was March.

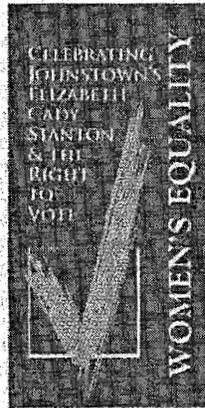
The banners tout the contribution of Johnstown native Elizabeth Cady Stanton, born in 1815, who advocated for equal rights and suffrage.

The 34 banners were sponsored in 2010 by local women's groups, organizations and community members.

"The banner colors are those of the original suffragist flag: purple signifying justice, gold for courage and white for purity of purpose," Debra Kolsrud said in a news release.

Kolsrud organized the sponsorship drive in coordination with the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association.

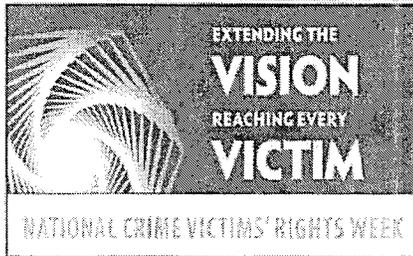
"This project represents the collective efforts of our community in giving tribute to Mrs. Stanton. The banners are placed on display during the month of March to honor all women. Stanton's unwavering commitment throughout her lifetime



in pursuit of equality and voting rights represents a significant contribution to American democracy," Kolsrud said.

A plaque denoting the banner sponsors is displayed on the information booth in the park across from the original site of the Cady home, where the Bank of America building is now located.

In the Bank of America lobby, people can view the Reflections Collection of Cady and Stanton family photos and artifacts assembled by Hometown Association. Many items are on loan from the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust through the generosity of Coline Jenkins, Stanton's great-great-granddaughter, the news release said.



*In Recognition of National Crime
Victims Rights Week*

April 22, 2012- April 27, 2012

You are cordially invited to join

The Fulton County Domestic Violence Task Force

For a Free Luncheon at the Holiday Inn –Johnstown, NY

308 North Comrie Ave, Johnstown, NY

April 24, 2012 at Noon

We Welcome Guest Speaker

Victoria Crompton-Tetter

Co- Author of the Book

“Saving Beauty from the Beast”

“ How to Protect Your Daughter from an Unhealthy Relationship”

In 1986 Vicki lost her daughter, Jenny Crompton, 15, to an abusive boyfriend. Since Jenny's death Vicki has been active in educating teens, parents and counselors on the problem of Teen Dating Violence, grief, victimization, and forgiveness. She has given thousands of presentations to high schools, church groups, police departments, judiciary, and mental health counselors.

She has appeared on national TV: The Oprah Winfrey Show, the Today Show, 60 Minutes II, MSNBC, Montel Williams, Sally Jesse Raphael, Geraldo, MSNBC and Inside Edition.

Please RSVP by April 20, 2012

Lisa Bonificio at 725-4310 ext 121 or lbificio@thefamilycounselingcenter.org or



Fulton County Domestic Violence Task Force
Quarterly Meeting
June 12, 2012

Training Room
HFM Prevention Council
86 Briggs Street Johnstown, NY 12095

*“Domestic Violence and the
Effects on Children”*

*We Welcome Guest Speaker
Carol Gaudons L.C.S.W.*

Agenda

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 12:00-12:10 | Sign In |
| 12:10-12:30 | Domestic Violence Task Force Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime Victim Awareness Week events• Community Needs Assessment Results |
| 12:30-1:15 | Presentation: Carol Gaudons, L.C.S.W., has worked in the field of Human Services for 25 years. She received her L.C.S.W. from SUNY Albany in May of 2007. Ms. Gaudons also dedicated a semester of studies to Domestic Violence. Ms. Gaudons has several years of experience working with victims and their children and currently works at the Family Counseling Center. |
| 1:15-1:30 | Questions and meeting date reminders |

**Just a reminder lunch will not be provided
Please feel free to bring your lunch**

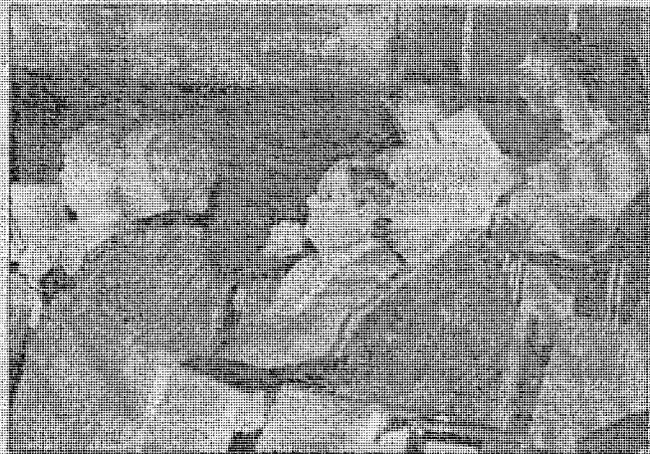
11/5/2012

Playing the suffragist's role



Above, Sally Matson portrays suffragist Susan B. Anthony at the Grove Performing Arts Center in Gloversville on Sunday while people watch at right. Anthony and her friend, Johnstown native Elizabeth Cady Stanton, drafted the text of the 19th Amendment, which allowed women to vote. The event, presented by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium, celebrated women's voting rights and Stanton's 197th birthday.

Photos by Bill Trojan
The Leader-Reporter



Comments From Past Clinics

"Thank you for this service. I feel great better."

*"Very helpful ... answered all my questions and
clear answers."*

"Very informative."

*"The attorney gave very informative, good legal
advice and recommendations. Was also able to
speak to lawyer's fees."*

*"Gave me great legal advice, answered all
unanswered questions. I had and had good ideas for
to a more positive path."*

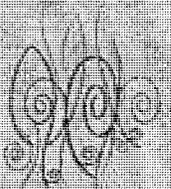
"Lots of helpful advice."

*"She really helped with trying to find solutions to
my problems."*

*"Attorney was very informed about my particular
situation and answered all questions."*

*"Easy to talk to and easy to understand. Thank
you very much."*

"Thank you for the start of something positive!"



About the AWBA

The Adirondack's Women Bar

Association is a Chapter of the Women's
Bar Association of the State of New York.

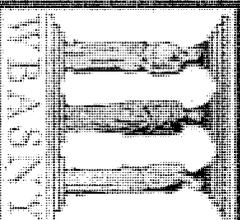
The AWBA was founded in 2005 and
currently has 55 members.

AWBA founding member and first
president Cynthia Schroek Sealey served
as President of the Women's Bar State
Association of the State of New York in
2009-2010.

Membership in the AWBA is open to all
attorneys and legal professionals,
regardless of gender.

www.adirondackwomensbar.com

Adirondack Women's Bar Association



Legal Clinic To Aid Victims Of Domestic Violence

www.adirondackwomensbar.com

About the Clinic

In 2010, the Adirondack Women's Bar Association (AWBA), created the AWBA Legal Clinic to Aid Victims of Domestic Violence. The first clinic was held on November 16, 2010. Each month, volunteer attorneys of all legal backgrounds meet with individuals referred from the Domestic Violence Project of Catholic Charities and the Warren County Victim Assistance Program, among other programs, to answer their questions about a variety of legal issues, which are directly and indirectly related to the domestic violence issues they are facing, such as divorce, support, custody, tax, bankruptcy, foreclosure and landlord-tenant issues. As of June, 2012, the Clinic has served more than 110 people.



Recognition

The AWBA was awarded the 2011 Bar Leaders Innovation Award from the New York State Bar Association Conference of Bar Leaders for its efforts in establishing and running the Clinic. Jessica Hugabone Vinson, Esq., and Jill O'Sullivan, Esq., founders of the Clinic, were also awarded the 2012 New York State Bar Association President's Pro Bono Service Award for the Fourth Judicial District in connection with their work with the Clinic.



The Monthly Clinic

The AWBA Legal Clinic is held the third Tuesday of each month at 35 Broad Street, Clens Falls, New York.

Each meeting is held between a volunteer attorney and an attendee in an one-on-one private setting at the Catholic Charities building, providing each attendee the individual attention and privacy he/she deserves.

Each session is approximately one half-hour, with the volunteer attorney providing guidance and general information on the requested legal issue(s).



Attending the Clinic

If you, or someone you know, is a victim of domestic violence and has legal questions, appointments can be made to attend a session at the Clinic, by calling the Domestic Violence Project of Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties at (518) 793-6212.

Please note that each session is designed to provide legal guidance and general information to the attendee. The volunteer attorney is not a retained attorney for the attendee nor the attendee's legal representative.



Volunteering for the Clinic

The AWBA seeks volunteer attorneys for each month's Clinic. Malpractice insurance is provided to the volunteers through membership in the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. Follow up representation of the attendee is not required.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.adirondackwomensbar.com/dv-clinic.



Volunteers

The AWBA is extremely grateful for the support of the following members who have volunteered their time to serve at the Clinic:

<i>Sonnette Studeite</i>	<i>Paule Bionde</i>	<i>Claudia Brygger</i>
<i>Karla Staunier</i>	<i>Yvonne Davis</i>	<i>Melissa Selby</i>
<i>Kara Shapman</i>	<i>Kendery Gatto</i>	<i>Sarah Gladstone</i>
<i>Elaine Grace</i>	<i>Shari Kaufman</i>	<i>John Kaufman</i>
<i>Glenn Skidell</i>	<i>Michelle Marascio</i>	<i>Jim W. Sullivan</i>
<i>Jacqueline Poulos</i>	<i>Kara Stuchand</i>	<i>Randy Rooney</i>
<i>Gynthia Seely</i>	<i>John Steasti</i>	<i>Theryl Soom</i>
<i>Elaine Tancini</i>	<i>Francine Vero</i>	<i>Jessica Vison</i>
<i>Kendery White</i>		<i>Gloria Sisson-Kozlacz</i>

These volunteers have allowed the AWBA to continue the Clinic each month and to make a difference in the lives of the attendees.

Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair
Supreme Court Justice

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2011-2012

Name of the Committee: Fifth Judicial District Women in the Courts Committee

Name and Title of Chair: Honorable Deborah H. Karalunas, J.S.C.

Members (names and titles):

Tania S. Anderson, Esq. (Principal Law Clerk to Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas)
Hannah Arterian (Dean, Syracuse University College of Law)
Christine M. Barry, Esq. (Support Magistrate)
Fran Ciardullo, Esq. (Private practitioner)
Karen DeCrow, Esq. (Private practitioner)
TImonthy J. Fennell, Esq. (Private practitioner)
Cindy Granger, Esq. (Private practitioner)
Mary Iocovozzi, Esq. (Private practitioner)
Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas (Supreme Court Justice)
Loretta Kilpatrick, Esq. (Principal Law Clerk to Hon. Donald Greenwood)
Bonnie Gail Levy, Esq. (Assistant Attorney General)
Maureen Maney, Esq. (Private practitioner; President WBASNY)
Doren Norfleet, Esq. (Private practitioner)
Hon. Michelle Pirro Bailey (Family Court Judge)
Lisa A. Proven, Esq. (Private practitioner)
Graceanne Snyder Quinn, Esq. (Private practitioner)
Kurt R. Sherman, Esq. (Principal Law Clerk to Hon. Martha Walsh Hood)
Hon. James C. Tormey (Administrative Judge, Fifth Judicial District)
Lucia Whisenand, Esq. (Private practitioner)

Dates of Meetings: May 5, 2011, September 8, 2011, December 8, 2011, February 2, 2012, May 10, 2012, September 13, 2012.

Average Attendance: 5

Do you have access to Video Conferencing? Have you used it? If so, how often? We have access to video conferencing however we do not use it. Arrangements are made for members to participate by telephone conference.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012: None

Activities for Women's History Month 2012: None

Other Activities in the Past Year? None

What are your plans for next year? The Committee will continue to meet quarterly. We intend to repeat our 2010 Domestic Violence Awareness program and arrange a dramatic reading of "Susan B" in Oswego County. In addition, we are working on a program that will provide an overview of the courts and legal services to the refuge populations in two of the six counties in the Fifth Judicial District.

What have been the biggest challenges or obstacles you have met in the last year?

The size of our district (six counties) makes it difficult to organize programs. In addition, our members have limited time to devote to this important work.

Have you had fruitful collaborations with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects?

Yes. We have worked with local bar associations, Vera House and the International Center of Syracuse. In the coming year, we plan to work with Vera House and the Bureau of Refuge and Immigrant Assistance.

Have you organized or helped to organize) any programs on human trafficking? This year? In past years?

No.

Please submit your annual report by Oct. 15, 2012 to:

Jill Goodman at Jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us

Seventh Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Teresa Johnson, Chair

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2011-2012

Name of the Committee

7th Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee.

Name and Title of Chair

Honorable Teresa D. Johnson, Supervising Judge Rochester City Court.

Members (names and titles)

See attached membership list.

Dates of Meetings

February 10, 2012, September 27, 2012.

Average Attendance

7 members. We have also continued to keep in touch via email for planning and scheduling events.

Do you have access to Video Conferencing? Have you used it? If so, how often?

Most of our members are located in Monroe County and appear personally for meetings. We have not utilized video conferencing for members in outlying counties but will make an effort to do so in the future.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012.

We did not present a program for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We did prepare a display for Breast Cancer Awareness Month with posters addressing the issue and breast cancer health brochures provided by the American Cancer Society and the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester. The 7th Judicial District had a judicial training CLE and dinner on October 16, 2012 in Canandaigua, New York. Our Breast Cancer Awareness Month display was presented at that time. In addition, the Breast Cancer Awareness Month poster display, with materials available to the public, have been at the entrance to the Hall of Justice in Rochester, New York throughout the month of October.

Activities for Women's History Month 2012.

On March 12, 2012, we presented a program "Changing Professional Paths without Fear". Our panelists included a retired City Court Judge, a lawyer and City Council

Member who is the executive director of a program for at risk youth and a retired Rochester Police Department Lieutenant who currently consults with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. The program was held at the Monroe County Bar Association and advertised widely through all of the bar groups in the area. See attached flier.

Other Activities in the Past Year?

We have not had any other activities within the past year.

What are your plans for next year?

We have spent some time talking about expanding and revitalizing our group and potential activities for the future.

What have been the biggest challenges or obstacles you have met in the last year?

There are increased work pressures upon all court employees because of our short staffing. That has affected the ability of our membership to be available for meetings and the willingness of employees to attend programs, particularly at lunch time. In the past Court Managers have been able to free up staff to attend programs and meetings, but that is no longer an option. With limits on the use of Court Officers, we have also taken to presenting programs at the Monroe County Bar Association Bar Center, where no Court Security overtime is required at lunch or after hours.

Have had fruitful collaborations with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects?

We have worked with the Monroe County Bar Association, the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys and the Rochester Black Bar Association to advertise our programs and events. We did not actually collaborate on the planning of any programs this year, though we have in the past. We will continue to look for opportunities to do so.

Have you organized or helped to organize any programs on human trafficking? This year? In past years?

No.

**Please submit your annual report by Oct. 15, 2012 to:
Jill Goodman at Jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us**

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE MEMBER ROSTER

COUNTY	NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Monroe	Hon. Teresa D. Johnson Chair	99 Exchange Blvd., Room 6 Hall of Justice Rochester, New York 14614 Phone: (585) 371-3406 Fax (585) 371-3423 email: tjohnson@courts.state.ny.us email: teresadjohnson@mac.com Home
Monroe	Sharon Kelly Sayers, Esq.	30 W. Broad Street, Suite 506 Rochester, New York 14614 Phone: (585) 454-2320 Fax: (585) 454-1612 email: sayers@frontiernet.net
Monroe	Kelly Wolford, ADA	47 S. Fitzhugh Street, Ste. 832 Rochester, New York 14614 Phone: (585) 753-4654 email: kwolford@monroecounty.gov
Wayne	Richard DeValk, Esq.	6 East Main Street, Sodus, New York 14551 Phone: (315) 483-6931 email: rdevalk@lawdhp.com
Monroe	Judy L. DiPaola	545 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, New York 14614 Phone: (585) 371-3630 email: JDIPAOLA@courts.state.ny.us
Monroe	Hon. Gail A. Donofrio	301 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, New York 14614 Phone: (585) 371-3502 email: GDONOFRI@courts.state.ny.us

Ontario	Elisabeth Toole, Esq.	Geneva City Court, 4067 W. Lake Road, Geneva, New York 14456 Phone: (315) 237-6581 Fax: (315) 237-6415 email: apetroni@rochester.rr.com
Monroe	Cathy Mazzotta	Phone: (585) 256-0508 email: mazzotta@frontiernet.net
Cayuga	Roberta Williams	11 Court Street, Auburn, New York 13021 Phone: (315) 253-4050 Debbie Robinson (secy) Fax (315) 253-4223 email: drobinson@whmbb.com email: rwilliams@wbmbb.com
Monroe	Elizabeth Wolford, Esq.	16 E. Main Street, Suite 600 Rochester, New York 14614 Phone: (585) 325-8005 email: ewolford@wolfordleclair.com
Seneca	Elizabeth Young, Chief Clerk Seneca Supreme & Cty Courts	48 W. Williams Street, Waterloo, NY 13165 Phone (315) 539-7021 Fax: (315) 539-7929 email: EYOUNG@courts.state.ny.us
Monroe	Sara Ashcraft, Esq	95 Allens Creek Road, Ste. 202 Rochester, New York 14618 Phone: (585) 442-0540 ext. 313 Fax: (585) 442-6889 email: Sashcraft@afylaw.com
Steuben	Pamela Gardner, Chief Clerk Steuben Family Court	3 E. Pulteney Square Bath, New York 14810 Phone: (607) 664-2135 Fax: (607) 776-7857 email: PGARDNER@courts.state.ny.us

Monroe	Deputy Teresa Madau	Room 9, First Floor, Hall of Justice 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, New York 14614 Phone: (585) 428-4195
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Monroe	Sharon Rivaldo	241 Shorewood Drive Webster, New York 14580 email: smsenior@bluefrog.com
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Monroe	Hon. Renee Forgenski	Court of Claims 550 Court Exchange Building 144 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, New York 14614 Phone: (585) 262-3019 email: RMinarik@courts.state.ny.us
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Last updated: October 31, 2012

The Seventh Judicial District
Gender Fairness Committee Presents

**CHANGING PROFESSIONAL PATHS
WITHOUT FEAR**

A Women's History Month Panel Discussion

Panelists:

**Hon. Anne E. Pfeiffer (Retired)
Faculty, Syracuse University College of Law**

**Elaine M. Spaul, Esq.
Rochester City Council Member
Executive Director, Center for Youth**

**Lieutenant Cynthia Herriott (Retired)
President, CMS Training**

**Monday, March 12, 2012
12:15 pm to 1:45 pm**

**5th Floor Conference Room
Monroe County Bar Association
Telesca Center for Justice
One West Main St., Rochester**

Feel Free to Bring a Brown Bag Lunch

**Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Chair
(585) 428-2096**

Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee

Hon. Rosalie Bailey, Chair
Erie County Family Court

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS January 2011 - October 2012

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

Name and Title of Chair: Hon. Rosalie S. Bailey, Erie County Family Court Judge

Members 27 (see attached list)

Dates of Meetings: **2011:** 3/1/11; 4/14/11; 5/10/11; 12/16/11;
 2012: 4/19/12; 6/20/12; (scheduled 11/1/12; 12/10/12)

Average Attendance: 14

Do you have access to Video Conferencing? Y If so, how often?

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012:

Together with the Eighth Judicial District Domestic Violence and Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, we cosponsored "The Realities of Domestic Violence on Clients-Adults and Children". The program was offered three times: once for non-judicial employees and twice for judges and attorneys.

This interactive program emanated from the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence. It gave participants greater insight into the realities of life for families caught up in domestic violence situations and the difficult choices they face.

Activities for Women's History Month 2011:

We observed Womens History Month in June when we held our biannual district-wide Lamplighter's Luncheon honoring women who have made a difference. We had over 250 attendees honoring the following outstanding women:

Hon. Paula Feroletto
Captain Kristen M. Neubauer
Belva Lockwood, Esq. (Posthumous)
Christine Nester
Veronica E. Rucker
Sandra K. Scruggs
Hon. Barbara M. Sims
Hon. Penny M. Wolfgang

Other Activities in 2011:

In January, committee members attended the Buffalo City Court Children Center Open House. We toured the facility and learned about the needs of the children whose parents come to the court and the services available to them. Individual members donated toys and other gifts.

In March, we viewed and discussed *Unseen Tears*, a powerful video about Native American residential boarding schools and their effect on Native American families. Because the video centered on families from our area, it was especially poignant.

In May we traveled to the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY, a multi-faced agency providing the following services: housing, senior apartments, weatherization, youth and family, homeless outreach, GED and work skills training, crime victims assistance, food pantries and the Matt Urban Hope Center. We learned about the problems that face the neediest in our community and the services available at the agency.

That same month, we helped organize a photograph of all the women judges of the Eighth Judicial District. Our photograph was taken in the same place and posed similarly to that of a photo of the eight male judges who presided in 1918. Our photo is framed and matted to replicate the 1918 photo and hangs by it in Erie County Hall and wordlessly shows the advances made by women in the judiciary.

In June we held our Lamplighter's Award Luncheon (see above).

In October, we cosponsored a symposium marking the 25th anniversary of the 1986 NYS Judicial Committee Report on Women in the Courts titled "Lessons from the Past, Challenges for the Future". Our cosponsors were the State University of NY at Buffalo School of Law, the Womens Bar Association of Western New York and the Women Lawyers of Western New York. Our keynote speaker was Maryann Saccamondo Freedman, Esq., the first woman president of the New York State Bar Association and the first woman president of the Erie County Bar Association. We also received insights from Prof. Schlegel who served on the 1986 committee. We recognized former Administrative Judge Kane for his role in establishing the local committee. There were panels, free CLE and lunch.

In December, we held our annual Holiday meeting where we reviewed the status of women in the courts and the effects of recent elections, retirements and appointments.

As a holiday treat, we showed a clip from the Sept. 27, 1953 episode of the game show "What's My Line?" In this show, the celebrity panel tried to guess the profession of guests - the obscurer, the better. The first guest was a mud bath attendant. The second was a woman judge - Buffalo City Court Judge Madge Taggart!

Activities for Women's History Month 2012:

Our committee took a tour of Forest Lawn Cemetery to visit the final resting places of women and minorities who shaped our community.

Other Activities in 2012 (until Oct 15):

In April, Dr. Timothy O'Neill addressed our committee about "Increasing Awareness of the Local Deaf Community".

Also in April, we presented a public panel titled "The New Social Media: Friend or Foe?" Speakers were Kathy Gust from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Buffalo Branch and Michael McCartney from Digits LLC.

In June, our committee toured Forest Lawn Cemetery to visit the final resting places of women and African Americans who shaped our community. We had a brown bag luncheon on the trolley on our way to the cemetery. Several law students working in the courts joined us. We had a wonderful guided tour and we learned about how our community has been enriched by the contributions of these outstanding individuals.

In August, during the Olympics, we cosponsored a program commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Title IX. The program was held at the West Side Rowing Club after work hours and offered free CLE. Our cosponsors were the Womens Bar Association of New York, Western New York Chapter and the Women Lawyers of Western New York. Speakers included Helen Drew, Esq, Sports Law Professor at SUNY Buffalo Law School and Joel Furtek, Canisius College Head Coach of Women's Rowing and a distinguished panel. We had refreshments and many attendees stayed to watch and cheer on the women Olympians!

Present at the program were three of the four women who have been elected president of the Erie County Bar Association. Current President Kathleen Sweet, Esq wrote about the program in the Bar Bulletin and the effect that Title IX had on her life.

In September, individual committee members joined friends in the Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk. We wore pink mardi gras beads.

On three dates in October our committee sponsored flu shots in both Erie and Niagara County.

Also, in October, we were a cosponsor of an all-day conference celebrating the 20th Anniversary of SUNY Buffalo Law School's Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic followed by a symposium honoring the 50th Anniversary of New York State Family Court. The morning portion was "Intimate Partner Violence: The Ripple Effect of Education, Research and Advocacy" and the afternoon: "The Changing Face of Family Court: 50th Anniversary Symposium". Cosponsors were the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, the Bar Association of Erie County, the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, the NYS Unified Court System, Eighth Judicial District Family Court, SUNY Buffalo Law School, UB Civic Engagement and Public Policy Research Initiative, UB Gender Institute; Womens Bar Association of NY, WNY Chapter, Women Lawyers of WNY and our committee.

The conference provided free lunch and free CLE and had over 275 attendees. It was so successful that the program had to be moved to a larger location but there still was not enough room to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend.

In November our committee traveled to the Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of Western New York drop-in center. We learned a lot about available services and needs.

What are your plans for next year:

In December we will be showing a video about the Underground Railroad in Buffalo.

The following programs are being explored for 2013:

- A Health Care Proxy informational brown-bag luncheon.
- A brown-bag CLE program on drug and alcohol abuse and its intersection with the law.
- A tour of a library in a poor neighborhood in Buffalo to learn about how it serves as a gathering place for the community.
- A showing of the video Sisters of Selma about a group of nuns and their role in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march.
- We will be holding our biannual Lamplighters luncheon in the spring honoring women in the law who have led the way.

- A meeting with the director of the Family Justice Center.

What have been the biggest challenges or obstacles you have met in the last year?

The challenge has always been to provide inexpensive quality programming. We have responded with innovative and creative suggestions from our members and court administration. By collaborating with the Law School, Womens Bar Association and the Women Lawyers of Western New York we have been able to provide better programming, free CLE and attract larger audiences to our mission. We have also found that by reaching out to the community, we have been able to expand our horizons.

Another challenge has been the time constraints on our members, but we have found the truth in the old maxim - if you want something done, ask a busy person.

Have you had fruitful collaborations with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects?

Yes. We have worked with the State University of NY at Buffalo School of Law, the Womens Bar Association, the Women Lawyers of WNY. Community and private organizations and individuals have been generous sharing their time and expertise in providing speakers and programming.

Have you organized or helped to organize, any programs on human trafficking? This year? In past years?

Although we did not have a program on human trafficking in 2011 or 2012, we have organized a number of programs in the recent past, the last in November 2010.

Please return this form by **October 15, 2012** to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel

Jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us

**8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
GENDER & RACIAL FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

Hon. Rosalie S. Bailey, Chairperson

Lori Shurilla

Mona Baskin, Esq.

Sharon Thomas, Vice-Chair

Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres

Marie Villari

Cindy Compito

Colleen Wagner

Paula DaBella

Hon. John Ward

Hon. Sheila DiTullio

Oliver Young, Esq.

Jackie Domkowski

Hon. Paula Feroletto

Linda Fogle

Mary Louise Hayden, Esq.

Brenda Heath, Esq.

Maureen Hourihan

Andrew Isenberg, Esq.

Anna Jochum

Kimberly LoCurto

Danielle Maichle, Esq.

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Vice-Chair

Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin, Esq.

Veronica Rucker

Hon. Robert Russell, Jr.

Sheila Schwanekamp, Esq.

Family Court
of the
State of New York
County of Erie



CHAMBERS OF
ROSALIE BAILEY
JUDGE

ONE NIAGARA PLAZA
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202
845-7475

MEMORANDUM

TO: JUSTICES, JUDGES, CHIEF CLERKS & AGENCY SUPERVISORS,
ALL NON-JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES - EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
AND BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

FROM: HON. ROSALIE S. BAILEY 
Chair-Eighth Judicial District, Gender & Racial Fairness Committee

DATE: May 23, 2011

RE: WOMEN IN THE LAW AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 8th Judicial District's Gender & Racial Fairness Committee cordially invites you to attend an awards luncheon to recognize outstanding women in the law. It will be held on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency, 2 Fountain Plaza, Buffalo.** Lunch will commence at **12:00 noon.**

We are honored this year to recognize: **Hon. Paula L. Feroletto, Captain Kristen M. Neubauer, Belva Lockwood, Esq. (Posthumous), Christine Nestor, Veronica E. Rucker, Sandra K. Scruggs, Hon. Barbara M. Sims, and Hon. Penny M. Wolfgang.**

We invite your attendance as well as members of your organization and office to recognize these outstanding women who have contributed to both the legal and the community at large.

Reservations for the luncheon are being accepted immediately at a cost of \$ 25.00 per person. Tables of ten can be reserved. Please forward your checks payable to "Women in the Courts Committee", to the Eighth District Administrative Office, 92 Franklin Street-3rd Floor, Buffalo, New York 14202. We request that you make your reservations as soon as possible but **no later than the close of business on June 1, 2011.**

For further information, please contact Chair, Hon. Rosalie S. Bailey (845-7475) or Sharon Wasielewski, Eighth Judicial District Office (845-2514).

We hope you will be able to join us.

C: Andrew B. Isenberg, District Executive
Eighth District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee

The Eighth Judicial District
Gender and Racial Fairness Committee
together with
The WNY Chapter of the Womens Bar Association of the State of New York,
Women Lawyers of Western New York
and UB School of Law

cordially invites colleagues, friends and members of the community
to join a Distinguished Panel of Prominent Local Jurists and Attorneys at a

Free Symposium
marking the
25th Anniversary of the
1986 NYS Judicial Committee Report on
Women in the Courts

Lessons from the Past - Challenges for the Future

1986 New York Task Force on Women in the Courts:
“Gender bias against women litigants, attorneys and court employees
is a pervasive problem with grave consequences.”

CLE Accreditation - 1.5 hours
No Cost
Refreshments

Thursday October 27, 2011
noon - 2 p.m.
Ceremonial Courtroom
Erie County Court Building
92 Franklin St., Buffalo NY 14202

Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is appreciated!
Email: klocurto@courts.state.ny.us

The Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee invites you to a free Brown Bag lunch time program.

The New Social Media: Friend or Foe?

Learn about what's going on and how you can protect yourself and your children .
Our presenters are Kathy Gust from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Buffalo Branch
and Michael McCartney from Digits LLC.

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

April 24, 2012

Ceremonial Courtroom
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo NY

Free and Open to all members of the Court Community

Title IX

Turns 40!

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."



CLE Credit Pending

No Charge

Space is Limited, Please Register
klocurto@courts.state.ny.us

Presented By:

The 8th Judicial District Committee on Gender and
Racial Fairness, together with

The WNY Chapter of the
Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

And

The Women Lawyers of Western New York

Space Generously Donated by:

West Side Rowing Club

President's Letter



By Kathleen M. Sweet

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance..." — June 23, 1972

In the summer of 1972, my mother had three very active little girls on her hands. We were 11, 7 and 5 years old. Although she was a terrific swimmer and an all-around athlete, I bet she was also far too busy to ponder on the potential of this new legislation or to contemplate its effect on our lives. She'd been afforded precious few structured opportunities to play sports. Before she had us, she had been a gym teacher - pardon me - a physical education instructor, and she was a well-regarded member of the faculty at the University of Buffalo. Yet there were barely intramurals and even more rare was a club team for collegiate women athletes at the time.

I don't know for sure whether she consciously pushed the boundaries of youth sports to involve her girls in competition or was simply motivated to preserve her own sanity by signing us up for as many activities as she could so that she could get some peace. If the town recreation program offered it, we were there. Tennis? Check. Softball? Grab your mitt and ride your bike. Swim team practice in the unheated town park pool? The earlier in the morning, the better.

When house league soccer came to Clarence in the mid 1970s, there were just under a hundred kids who played across all age groups; only three were girls. In 1972, when Title IX

was passed, there were not even 300,000 girls participating in sports in the entire country. Today, there are estimated to be close to four

million girls involved in high school sports and the U.S. Olympic team for the London Games included more women than men. Not to mention the several thousand scholarship opportunities that exist for women in 2012, as a direct result of higher educational institutions endeavoring to comply with the law. Would such huge changes have occurred were it not for an act of Congress? Not likely. You may not think we need an Equal Rights Amendment or a legislative act requiring equal pay, but Title IX was a good idea 40 years ago and today our daughters and granddaughters can't even imagine an America where girls are relegated to the sidelines. And here's a radical thought: I believe that young men have benefitted as well. Fewer of them bother to resent or bemoan the fact that young women compete in sports, academics and politics because it's all they have ever known.

"Not Bad for a Girl!"

In contrast, I can vividly recall a time when I appeared at a pretrial conference in the early 1990s where my opponent was a very well dressed and distinguished gentleman attorney in his mid 70s. While we waited to be called in to chambers, we exchanged the initial introductory pleasantries with the judge's secretary. Then - and I'll never forget this - the older male attorney proceeded to scold me, telling me that I should be ashamed of myself for having taken a job that a man with a family should be doing. At first, I sincerely thought he was kidding, which most people know I can take and rather enjoy. (My friend and adversary Jack Dempsey routinely introduces me to his clients as having been elected president of the bar, only to add mischievously, "not bad for a girl!" And Jack and I both know that "Helen Kaney [Dempsey] from Lackawanna" would kick his you-know-what if he really believed that.)

But this other guy was absolutely serious. His frame of reference and life experience had led him to conclude that women were taking something that belonged to men and we were unnaturally pushing out those for whom the profession had been rightfully reserved.

As those who harbor such feelings age out of our profession, I think we will see even more clearly that Title IX's reach is way beyond college sports. And that we are all better for it.

In August, the Hon. Rosalie Bailey, the Eighth Judicial District Gender & Fairness Committee, and the western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York presented a CLE program reviewing the good, the bad and the awkward legal history of Title IX, and the ways in which it has been implemented, challenged and "enforced" over the last 40 years. Thank you, Judge Bailey, for caring about a subject so dear to my heart and for reminding folks how far we have come while acknowledging that there is more to be done.

SUNY Buffalo Law Links

125 YEARS OF INNOVATION IN LEGAL STUDIES

125

The e-newsletter of SUNY Buffalo Law School, The State University of New York

September 2012

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[Mitchell Lecture addresses the shifting nature of personal caretaking](#)

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[Day of Service energizes 45 student volunteers](#)

[UB honors Professor Isabel Marcus honored for international human rights work](#)

[Binder's book sheds new light on a controversial area of criminal law](#)

[Professor Lynn Mather's new book looks at the contexts that affect lawyers' decisions](#)

[SUNY Buffalo Law School has been selected one of the Best Law Schools for Black Students by On Being A Black Lawyer \(OBABL\)](#)

[Baldy Center fellows bring richness to academic life](#)

[On NPR, Professor Ewing explores the limits of professional confidentiality](#)

[Ronald J. Winter '81 has ambitious plans as newly elected leader of Phi Alpha Delta](#)

[125 years of innovation, a year of celebration](#)

Law School conference celebrates progress against domestic violence

SUNY Buffalo Law School will mark two landmark anniversaries Oct. 19, paying tribute to the "ripple effect" of its work against domestic violence, and the fiftieth year of operations for the New York State Family Court system.

It was 20 years ago that clinical professor Suzanne Tomkins and Catherine Cerulli, J.D., Ph.D., established the school's Domestic Violence Clinic, now known as the Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic. It has been a half-century since the establishment of the New York State Family Court; last year NY State Family Court presided over almost 180,000 cases involving families and children victimized by Domestic Violence, Abuse, Neglect or Juvenile Delinquency.

The morning session of the conference, called **Intimate Partner Violence: The Ripple Effect of Education, Research and Advocacy**, will bring together scholars, advocates and members of the judiciary and bar; professionals in the fields of law enforcement, mental health, education and social services; and students from throughout the university.

"We wanted to think about the impact that individual students' projects and the clinic overall have had over the years," says Professor Susan Vivian Mangold, an organizer of the conference. "It's important to see that this work on a local level has had these ripple effects over time not only nationally but internationally. The conference is also an opportunity for judges and other advocates to come together and hear from colleagues about the challenges they are facing."

The problem of domestic violence remains widespread. According to the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, "intimate partner violence" surfaces in about 1 of every 320 households nationwide. It is estimated nationally and internationally that one out of four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

The conference will bring together scholars, advocates and members of the judiciary and bar; professionals in the fields of law enforcement, mental health, education and social services; and students from throughout the university.

The afternoon sessions will feature nine current and former Family Court Judges from the 1970's through the present day who will discuss the historical caseload of the court, the issues which Family Court attempts to address and its evolution to present day practice.

Keynote speakers for the morning session include Leigh Goodmark, a professor at the



Photo taken in 1992 of the Domestic Violence Task Force with Suzanne E. Tomkins '92 (far right).

Intimate Partner Violence: The Ripple Effect of Education, Research and Advocacy

October 19, 2012
SUNY Buffalo Law School

- [Visit the conference website](#)
- [Register to attend the conference](#)

University of Baltimore Law School and president of the Clinical Legal Education Association, the nation's largest membership organization of law faculty. Goodmark, an expert in domestic violence and author of the recently published book *A Troubled Marriage: Domestic Violence and the Legal System*, will offer both a retrospective and a look ahead at clinical legal education in the domestic violence arena.

Another speaker, Aruna Papp, is a Canada-based advocate and expert on the challenges of global diversity in addressing domestic violence. Author of the recent book *Unworthy Creature: A Punjabi Daughter's Memoir*, she'll discuss the emerging area of how to provide effective help to North American women whose immigrant cultural traditions, such as honor-related crimes, put them in unique danger.

A lunchtime address by Catherine Cerulli '92, former director of research for the Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic, will survey the research that has been done on domestic violence and how legal responses have used that research to develop best practices. Cerulli is well-positioned to provide this research overview since her own work has earned numerous awards, including a recent multimillion-dollar grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She currently serves as director of the Susan B. Anthony Center, a research institute at the University of Rochester.

The conference will continue with an afternoon symposium organized by Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin '85, a Family Court judge, and other members of the New York State judiciary to celebrate the 50th anniversary of New York State Family Court. *Family Court: Past, Present and Future* highlights the evolving work of the court, looking back over 50 years and ahead to new challenges.

The first session moderated by Frank Boccio, Chief Clerk of the Family Court since 1961, will feature Judges Mary Ann Killeen, James Dillon, Janice Rosa and John O'Donnell. The second session, moderated by Mark Schlecter, Principal Court Attorney from Steuben County, will include presentations by Judges Lisa Bloch Rodwin, Rosalie Bailey, Judith Claire, Michael Griffith, and Margaret Szczur.

"We hope this program assists students and attorneys in understanding how Family Court has radically evolved over the last 50 years, both in the type of cases the court hears and in its response to the changing face of Family Life in America" stated Judge Bloch Rodwin.

The conference is free. Registration, which is required, is available at www.law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent.asp.

SUNY Buffalo Law School, John Lord O'Brien Hall, Buffalo, New York 14260-1100
(716) 645-2052 | Law-Deans@buffalo.edu | University at Buffalo | Contact Us



- Conference Home
- Registration
- Schedule
- Participant Biographies
- CLE Information



Intimate Partner Violence: The Ripple Effect of Education, Research, and Advocacy

Family Court: Past, Present, and Future

October 19, 2012 | Samuel's Grand Manor
 8750 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221 (716) 634-8425

A conference to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of SUNY Buffalo Law School's Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic, followed by a symposium to honor the 50th Anniversary of New York State Family Court.

The conference will bring together scholars, advocates, and members of the judiciary and bar to discuss the remarkable ripple effect of education, research, and advocacy on intimate partner violence and social justice in the local, national, and international arenas.

In 1992, the Domestic Violence Clinic was inaugurated at SUNY Buffalo Law School under the direction of clinic faculty Suzanne Tomkins and Catherine Cerulli to provide educational and practical experience to students to address the needs of domestic violence victims in our community.

Twenty years later, the Clinic has evolved into the current Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic, encompassing the larger advocacy work needed to address the problem of intimate partner violence locally, nationally and internationally.

Two morning panels will examine the evolution of intimate partner violence advocacy and the globalization of that advocacy. The lunchtime keynote address will offer an historical view and update on the research on intimate partner violence and how it informs our legal and social responses at the victim and community levels. The day will continue with a symposium discussing the history and future directions of New York State Family Court.

Co-Sponsors:

- Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy
- Bar Association of Erie County
- Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee
- Minority Bar Association of Western New York
- NYS Unified Court System, Eighth Judicial District Family Court
- SUNY Buffalo Law School
- UB Civic Engagement and Public Policy Research Initiative
- UB Gender Institute
- Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter
- Women Lawyer's of Western New York



Friday, October 19, 2012 • 1 – 4 PM

THE CHANGING FACE OF FAMILY COURT: 50TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

A special focus on the history, evolution and vision for Family Court in the 8th Judicial District



UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF LAW, JOHN LORD O'BRIAN HALL

Follows morning training on "Intimate Partner Violence: The Ripple Effect of Education, Research and Advocacy," A Conference to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of SUNY Buffalo Law School's Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic.

1 – 2:15 PM

Lunchtime Presentation (Box lunch provided)

20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH: A BRIDGE TO EVIDENCED-BASED PRACTICE - Dr. Catherine Cerulli

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Panel Presentations, Letro Courtroom in O'Brian Hall

HISTORY OF FAMILY COURT: WHEN WE BEGAN...WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

Panelists: Hon. Mary Ann Killeen, Hon. James Dillon, Hon. Janice Rosa and Hon. John O'Donnell.

Moderator: Frank Boccio, Erie County Family Court Chief Clerk

3:30 – 4:30 PM

PRESENT AND FUTURE: HOW WE GOT WHERE WE ARE...WHAT WE CAN BECOME. *Panelists: Hon. Rosalie Bailey, Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin, Hon. Margaret Szczur, Hon. Michael Griffith, Hon. Judith S. Claire.*

Moderator: Mark Schlecter, Esq., Principal Court Attorney, Steuben County

Reception immediately following.

TO REGISTER:

There is no cost for these events, but please note that registration is required:

<https://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/BUF/events/BUF2358284.html>

Or www.law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent.asp and click on conference to register.

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION,
CONTACT:**

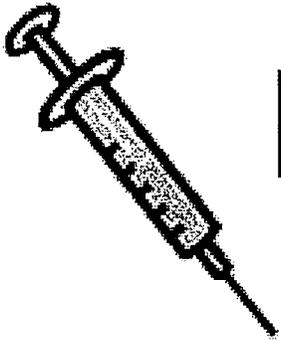
Aimee Neri, Liaison, Child Welfare Court Improvement Project
(716) 845-1833 or aneri@courts.state.ny.us

CO-SPONSORED BY:



**NYS UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM 8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT FAMILY COURT;
SUNY BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL; ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION; MINORITY BAR
ASSOCIATION; WNY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION; WOMEN LAWYERS OF WESTERN
NEW YORK; 8TH JD GENDER AND RACIAL FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

SUNY Buffalo Law School 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 of March 11, 2011 - March 10, 2014. SUNY Buffalo Law School has a financial hardship policy. For further information on our policy, contact Lisa Mueller, CLE Coordinator. Session 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm of this program qualifies for 1.0 CLE credit in the area of Professional Practice (transitional or non-transitional). Session 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm of this program qualifies for 1.0 CLE credit in the area of Professional Practice (transitional or non-transitional).



FLU SHOTS

Niagara County

Oct. 16th - Lockport

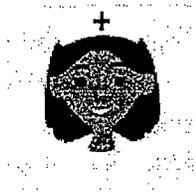
Niagara County Courthouse - 3rd Floor
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Oct. 24th - Niagara Falls

Angelo DelSignore County Office Bldg.
775 Third Street - 1st Floor
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

No Appointment Necessary

Employees should bring insurance cards and photo ID
Community Blue and Independent Health accepted with no co-payment
Empire enrollees will not be covered at this time
(see cover letter for upcoming date accepting Empire)



Sponsored in Part by the
8TH Judicial District Gender and Racial
Fairness Committee





FLU SHOTS

October 18th

25 Delaware Avenue
Part 27 - Basement
Buffalo, NY 14202
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

No Appointment Necessary
Employees should bring
insurance cards and photo ID



Sponsored in Part by the
8TH Judicial District Gender and Racial
Fairness Committee



To: Buffalo Resident Judges and Staff
Date: 10/18/2012 1:43 PM
Subject: Flu Shots

Good Afternoon,

There was an overwhelming response to the flu shots earlier today.

If you have not received your flu shot and would like to , or attempted to and left because of the long wait, you may want to try at this time. There no longer is a wait. The Visiting Nurses will be there until 2:30.

Thank you.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

- What:** The Realities of Domestic Violence on Litigants- Adults and Children
- When:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 from 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.- Program will begin promptly at 12:45 p.m.
- Where:** Supreme Court Ceremonial Courtroom, 92 Franklin Street,
2nd Floor, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In response to requests for greater insight into the realities of life for families who experience domestic violence, please join us for this innovative and engaging program.

This program, emanating from the *National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence* is being presented by the *8th Judicial District Domestic Violence and Integrated Domestic Violence Courts* and co-sponsored by the *8th Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee*.

RSVP to Sheila Schwanekamp at sschwane@courts.state.ny.us regarding your attendance on or before Monday, October 15th. This program will be limited to the first 50 registrants so please register early.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

- What:** The Realities of Domestic Violence on Clients- Adults and Children
- When:** Tuesday, October 30, 2012 OR Wednesday, October 31, 2012
from 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.- Program will begin promptly at 12:45 p.m.
- Where:** Supreme Court Ceremonial Courtroom, 92 Franklin Street, 2nd Floor, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In response to requests for greater insight into the realities of life for families who experience domestic violence, please join us for this innovative and engaging program.

This program, emanating from the *National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence*, is being presented by the *8th Judicial District Domestic Violence and Integrated Domestic Violence Courts* and co-sponsored by the *8th Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee*.

Please register to attend on one of the above dates, October 30th or October 31st by contacting Lisa Maggio at lmaggio@courts.state.ny.us on or before October 22nd.
Each program will be limited to the first 50 registrants so please register early.

Title IX

Turns 40!

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Speakers:

Helen Drew, Esq.

SUNY Buffalo Sports Law Professor

Joel Furtek

Canisius College Head Rowing Coach

With Panel Discussion to Follow

Thursday August 9, 2012

5:30pm - 7:30pm

The West Side Rowing Club

68 Porter Avenue

Buffalo NY 14201

Stay for a bit to enjoy the view, refreshments and the Olympics from London



CLE Credit Pending

No Charge

Space is Limited, Please Register

klocurto@courts.state.ny.us

Presented By:

The 8th Judicial District Committee on Gender and Racial Fairness, together with

The WNY Chapter of the

Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

And

The Women Lawyers of Western New York

Space Generously Donated by:

West Side Rowing Club



Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair
Judge, Court of Claims

Hon. Allen Hochberg, Vice-Chair
Hearing Examiner

LOCAL COMMITTEES 2011-2012

Name of the Committee:

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

Name and Title of Chair:

Chair: Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Judge, New York State Court of Claims

Vice Chair: Hon. Allen Hochberg, Support Magistrate, Westchester County Family Court

Members:

List attached

Dates of Meetings:

May 25, 2011, September 13, 2011, November 15, 2011,
January 19, 2012, June 6, 2012, September 13, 2012

Average Attendance: 20

Do you have access to Video Conferencing? Have you used it? If so, how often?

Yes. It was successfully used with other Court locations for our June 6, 2012 and January 19, 2012 meetings.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012:

We co-sponsored a CLE program with Pace University Law School, Pace Women's Justice Center, the Ninth Judicial District Pro Bono Local Action Committee and the Westchester Women's Bar Association.

Activities for Women's History Month 2012:

The committee again sponsored its annual essay contest open to all high school students in the Ninth Judicial District. This year's topic was:

Laws that promote gender equality: Have they been a blessing or a curse? Please discuss.

Local bar associations contributed to the monetary prizes which were awarded at a breakfast reception held in the courthouse on April 27, 2012. The Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman and Hon. Alan

Scheinkman, Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, participated in a ceremony honoring the winners of the contest. Judges, attorneys, public officials, bar association officers, school personnel and family members of the contest winners were in attendance.

Other Activities in the Past Year:

During the course of the year, we have had many distinguished guest speakers at our meetings including:

Holly Maguigan, Professor of Clinical Law, New York University School of Law

Hon. Francesca Connolly, Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial Part, Westchester County Supreme Court

Audrey Stone, Chief of the Special Prosecutions Division, Second Deputy District Attorney for Westchester County

Dan Weitz, Deputy Director of the Division of Professional and Court Services and Coordinator, Office of ADR and Court Improvement Programs

Justin Michael Simpson, Psy.D., Program Coordinator for the Mental Health Association of Westchester

Mark Fang, Executive Director, Westchester Human Rights Commission.

In June, we co-sponsored a CLE program with Pace University Law School, Pace Women's Justice Center and the Westchester Women's Bar Association entitled "The ABC's of Matrimonial Law" and in October we co-sponsored a CLE program with Pace University Law School, Pace Women's Justice Center, the Ninth Judicial District Pro Bono Local Action Committee and the Westchester Women's Bar Association.

Plans for Next Year:

The committee will continue sponsoring its annual essay contest with the anticipated support of the local bar associations.

In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings with guest speakers, we also intend to present CLE programs and other educational programs in partnership with various associations.

What have the biggest challenges or obstacles you have met in the last year?

The Ninth Judicial District is geographically large. This year, we were able to use video conferencing for members that were not able to attend in person.

Have you had fruitful collaborations with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects?

Yes. We have co-sponsored activities with several bar associations, Pace University School of Law and the Pace Women's Justice Center.

Have you organized or help to organize any programs on human trafficking? This year? In past years?

At our November 15, 2011 meeting, Audrey Stone, Chief of the Special Prosecutions Division, Second Deputy District Attorney for Westchester County, spoke on the topic of sex trafficking. She discussed the prosecutions that her office has handled.

Hon. Lester Adler
Justice of the Supreme Court
111 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
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Pace Law School
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Chambers of Hon. John P. Colangelo
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My Sister's Place
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Jacqueline Hattar, Esq.
Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman &
Dicker LLP
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Beth Levy, Esq.
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Mt. Vernon, New York 10550

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Administrative Judge's Office
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White Plains, NY 10603

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Appellate Division, Second Dept.
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White Plains, NY 10601

Thea Dubow
Westchester Office for Women
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White Plains, NY 10601

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McCarthy, Fingar, LLP
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Hon. Allen Hochberg
Support Magistrate
Westchester County Family Court
53 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY 1070

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Hon. David Klein
Westchester County Family Court
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White Plains, NY 10601

Hon. Robert Meehan
County Attorney Westchester County
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White Plains, NY 10601

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McCarthy, Fingar, LLP
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White Plains, NY 10606

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White Plains, NY 10603

Gary Brown, Assistant Attorney
General-in-Charge
New York State Dept of Law
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White Plains, NY 10601

Hon. Kathie Davidson
Supervising Judge of the Family Courts
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White Plains, NY 10601

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Deputy Director Human Rights
Commission
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White Plains, NY 10601

Lonya Gilbert, Esq.
1843 Palmer Ave
Larchmont, NY 10538

Maria Imperial, Esq.
CEO, YWCA White Plains
515 North Street
White Plains, NY 10605

Susan W. Kaufman, Esq.
Committee on Matrimonial Practice
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White Plains, NY 10601

Milton Kreppel, Esq.
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Suite 1103
New Rochelle, NY 10801

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Pace Women's Justice Center
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White Plains, NY 10603

Chief Mary Ellen Murray
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White Plains, NY 10601

Keary Neary, Esq.
Westchester County District Attorney's
Office
111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman
Judge, NYS Court of Claims
140 Grand Street, Suite 507
White Plains, NY 10601

Hon. Thomas H. Scuccimarra
Judge, NYS Court of Claims
140 Grand St, 9th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601

Charlotte Watson
Special Projects Coordinator
Unified Court System
140 Grand Street, 7th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601

Hon. Joan Posner
Dutchess County Family Court
50 Market Street
Poughkeepsic, NY 12601

Jill Sandford, Esq.
15 Plymouth Road
Rye, NY 10580

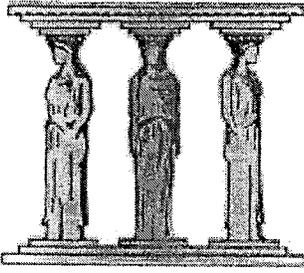
Hon. Mary Smith
Justice of the Supreme Court
111 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601

Hon. Charles David Wood
Justice of the Supreme Court
111 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601

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Keane & Beane, P.C.
445 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman
Administrative Judge
Ninth Judicial District
111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
White Plains, NY 10601

Hon. John W. Sweeny, Jr.
Appellate Division, 1st Dept.
Putnam Co. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, NY 10512



WWBBA news

Westchester Women's Bar Association

JUNE 2012

www.wwbany.org

Awards Ceremony Held for Ninth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee Essay Contest Winners

Jacqueline Hattar

The Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts Essay Contest winners were honored at a breakfast ceremony that was held on April 27, 2012. The Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, who chairs the Committee, welcomed the students, parents, and guests. The contest, held to celebrate Women's History Month, was open to students who attend accredited high schools within the Ninth Judicial District, which includes Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess and Orange counties. The topic on which the students were asked to write was, "Laws that Promote Gender Equality: Have They Been a Blessing or A Curse?"



Irina Huang, Gail M. Boggio, Juliette Verrengia, Lisa M. Bluestein, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Kim Berg, Thalia Orphee, Julie S. Kattan, Radhika Badu, Dolores Gebhardt

This year's first place winners were Thalia Orphee of Clarkstown North High School in the freshman/sophomore category and Juliette Verrengia of Horace Greeley High School in the junior/senior category. The second place winners were Irina Huang of Clarkstown North High School in the freshman/sophomore category and Radhika Basu of Horace Greeley High School in the junior/senior category. The generous contributions of several bar associations, including the Westchester Women's Bar Association, Westchester Women's Bar Association Foundation, Westchester County Bar Association, Westchester County Bar Foundation, Westchester Black Bar Association, White Plains Bar Association, Justice Brandeis Westchester Law Society, Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties, New Rochelle Bar Association, Yonkers Lawyers Association and Eastchester Bar Association, allowed for cash prizes to be awarded to the students. The ceremony was attended by the Westchester County District Attorney Janet M. DiFiore as well as several judges from the district, in-



Irina Huang, Juliette Verrengia, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Thalia Orphee, Radhika Badu

cluding the current Administrative Judge Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman, the former Administrative Judge Hon. Francis Nicolai, Hon. Charles D. Wood, Hon. John R. Lacava, Hon. Thomas H. Scuccimarra, and Hon. Lester Adler. The Committee is an off-shoot of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts and is committed to ensuring that both men and women are treated fairly in the Courts in the district. We congratulate the students and wish them continued success in their future endeavors. ▀

OFF THE RECORD



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURT OF CLAIMS

P.O. BOX 7344, ALBANY, NY 12224

www.nyscourtofclaims.state.ny.us

June 2012 - Vol. 20, No. 1

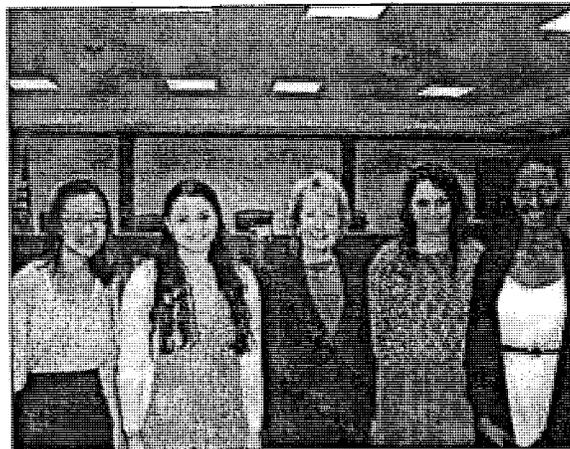


Gender Fairness Committee Celebrates Women's History Month

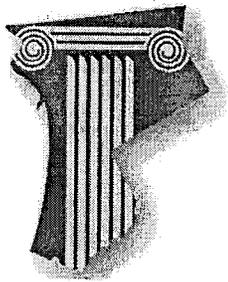
The Ninth Judicial District to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts held a breakfast on April 27, 2012 to recognize the winners of its Annual Essay Contest in celebration of Women's History Month. Honorable Terry Jane Ruderman presented the awards.

Students were asked to write on the topic, "Laws that promote gender equality: Have they been a blessing or a curse? Please discuss." In the freshman/sophomore category, Thalia Orphee, from Clarkstown North High School, won First Prize and Irina Huang, also from Clarkstown North High School, won Second Prize. In the junior/senior category, Juliette Verrengia, from Horace Greeley High School, won First Prize and Radhika Basu, also from Horace Greeley High School, 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 60 assembled guests. Members of the White Plains Court of Claims staff attended the breakfast. Honorable Thomas H. Scuccimarra, who also serves on the Gender Fairness Committee, was the "official photographer" for the event. 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: Irina Huang, Juliette Verrengia, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Radhika Basu, Thalia Orphee



WESTCHESTER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.wcbany.org

JUNE 2012

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts recognized the winners of its Annual Essay Contest at a breakfast held on April 27, 2012 in celebration of Women's History Month. Court of Claims Judge Terry Jane Ruderman, chair of the committee, presented the awards. The generosity of various professional organizations and bar associations, including the Westchester County Bar Association and the Westchester County Bar Foundation, enabled the committee to award cash prizes to the students.

Thalia Orphee, from Clarkstown North High School, won First Prize in the freshman/sophomore category. Irina Huang, also from Clarkstown North High School, won Second Prize. Juliette Verrengia, from Horace Greeley High School, won First Prize in the junior/senior category. Radhika Basu, also from Horace Greeley High School, won Second Prize.

The students read their essays to the more than 60 assembled guests. Those in attendance included the Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District Alan Scheinkman, the Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore, the Presiding Judge of the Appellate Term Francis A. Nicolai, Court of Claims Judge Thomas Scuccimarra and State Su-



Front row: Irina Huang, Juliette Verrengia, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Radhika Basu, Thalia Orphee. Back Row: Carol L. Van Scoyoc (Outgoing WCBA President), Jerold R. Ruderman (Incoming WCBA President), and James Staudt (President, Westchester County Bar Foundation)

preme Court Justices John Lacava, Lester Adler and Charles Wood. Also in attendance were representatives of the professional organizations and bar associations.

The committee anticipates that this contest and awards breakfast will be held again next year and is hoping for even greater participation in the district.



PACE LAW SCHOOL
P A C E U N I V E R S I T Y



PACE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, PACE WOMEN'S JUSTICE CENTER, THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE GENDER FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS AND THE WESTCHESTER WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

are pleased to host this CLE Program

The ABC's of Matrimonial Law
Pace University School of Law
Moot Court Room
Thursday, June 21, 2012
6:00pm to 8:30 pm
Coffee and cookies will be provided

This Program will commence with an overview of how to draft a matrimonial action, including such topics as what ground to use, the need for determining child custody, visitation and support, the ability to request maintenance (temporary and permanent) and legal fees from the adversary spouse, and the way to calculate equitable distribution. Following the lecture overview there will be a reenactment of an initial matrimonial interview.

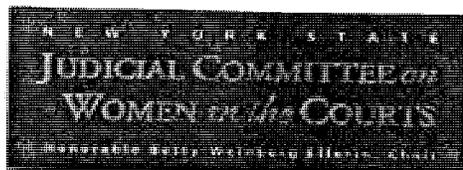
FACULTY

The Honorable Francesca E. Connolly, Supreme Court Westchester County
The Honorable Lewis J. Lubell, Supreme Court Westchester County
Dolores Gebhardt, Esq. Partner McCarthy Fingar, LLP
Laura Daniels, Esq., Solo Practitioner
Karen Johansen, Esq., Pace Women's Justice Center

AGENDA

- 5:30 to 6:00 Registration
- 6:00 to 6:10 Introductions
Joan Blackburn, Esq. and Natanya Briendel, Esq. Pace Women's Justice Center
The Honorable Terry Jane Ruderman, New York State Court of Claims
- 6:10 to 7:00 Dolores Gebhardt, Esq. -- The ABC's of Matrimonial Law
- 7:00 to 7:20 Karen Johansen, Esq. -- Overview of Domestic Violence
- 7:20 to 7:30 Break
- 7:30 to 7:55 Skit -- How *Not* to Conduct an Initial Matrimonial Interview
The Honorable Francesca E. Connolly,
The Honorable Lewis J. Lubell
Laura Daniels, Esq.
- 7:55 to 8:20 The Correct way to Conduct an Initial Matrimonial Interview

Fee waived for participants of the Pace Women's Justice Center Moderate Means Panel. Approval of CLE credit is in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 1.5 credits in Practice, .5 Ethics transitional/non-transitional credits. Pace Law School is an accredited provider of CLE credits in New York





PACE LAW SCHOOL
PACE UNIVERSITY



**Pace
Women's
Justice**

PACE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, PACE WOMEN'S JUSTICE CENTER, THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE GENDER FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS, THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBONO LOCAL ACTION COMMITTEE AND THE WESTCHESTER WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

are pleased to host a CLE Program

UNCONTESTED DIVORCES: FACTS, FORMS AND FILING

Pace University School of Law

Moot Court Room

Thursday, October 11, 2012

6:00pm to 8:30 pm

Coffee and cookies will be provided

The first part of the Program will provide a step by step guide to preparing the paperwork for an Uncontested Divorce, including the following: Motion to Proceed as a Poor Person, Summons, Complaint, Affidavit of Service, Affidavits of Plaintiff and Defendant, Sworn Statement of Removal of Barriers to Remarriage, Affidavit/Affirmation of Regularity, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, Judgment of Divorce, Note of Issue, Part 130 Certification, Uncontested Matrimonial Request for Judicial Intervention, NYS Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage and Notice of Entry. The second part of the Program will involve a mock interview demonstrating best practices for obtaining the information needed to prepare the pleadings.

FACULTY

The Honorable Terry Jane Ruderman, Court of Claims, Westchester County; James Garfein, Chief Court Attorney Supreme Court Westchester County; Erin Guven, Court Attorney Referee Supreme Court Westchester County; Laurie Sullivan, Court Attorney Referee Supreme Court Westchester County; Natanya L. Briendel, Esq., Staff Attorney Pace Women's Justice Center

6:00 to 6:05

Introductions

Joan Blackburn, Esq. and Natanya Briendel, Esq. Pace Women's Justice Center
The Honorable Terry Jane Ruderman, New York State Court of Claims

6:05 to 7:30

Pleading Preparation

James Garfein, Erin Guven, Laurie Sullivan and Natanya Briendel

7:30 to 7:40

Break

7:40 to 8:20

Mock Interview - best practices

8:20 to 8:30

Discussion

Fee waived for participants of the Pace Women's Justice Center Moderate Means Panel. Approval of CLE credit is in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 2.5 skills credits. Pace Law School is an accredited provider of CLE credits in New York.

COST:

Pace Law School Alumni \$100.00; Lawyers \$125.00 (Government employees 50% discount)

REGISTRATION:

www.law.pace.edu/ccle or call Linda Maccarrone 914-422-4062



Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee

Hon. Chris Ann Kelley

District Court Judge

Nancy Clifford, Co-Chair

Deputy Bureau Chief, Major Crimes
Suffolk Co. District Attorney's Office

SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN in the COURTS

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Name & Address of Co-Chairs:

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Acting County Court Judge
Suffolk County District Court
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E.mail: Ckelley@courts.state.ny.us

Tel. No.: 631 853- 7733

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A.D.A. Nancy Clifford
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office
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Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Email: Nancy.Clifford@SuffolkCountyNY.Gov

Tel.No.: 631 852-2480

Fax.No.: 631 852-2835

WOMEN IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Kristen Bucaria
Hon. Isabel Buse
Catherine Cicchelli
Fred Crockett
Emily DeGregorio
Pat DesPasquale
Ruth Ann DiLena
Eileen Doyle
Hon. Patricia Filiberto
Colleen Fondulis
Sue Fox

Caroline Levy
Katherine Loguidice
Hon. Daniel Loughlin
Hon. Gaetan Lozito
Barbara Mehrman
Kathleen Meyer
Leslie McLoughlin
Donna Murnane
Barbara Nieroda
Linda O'Donohoe

Hon. Joan Genchi

Keri Herzog
Maureen Hordy

Lisa St. Rose
Hon. Deborah Kooperstein
Lorraine Santoianni
Shari Sugarman
Marian Tinari

Cathy Petersen
Kaitlyn Pickford-Rufa
Andrea Ramos-Topper
Martha Rogers
Victor Rossamano

Beverly Saldivias
Hon. Sandra Sgroi
Ave Maria Thompson
Margaret Trainor

Hertha Trotto
Carrie Vasiluth
Hon. Theresa Whelan
Cheryl Zimmer
Susan Hagelmann

Jane LaCova
Wendy Meyer
Sheryl Randazzo
Cynthia Vargas

Janessa Trotto
Jane Vecchione
Hon. Mary M. Werner
Brette Haefali
Kim Herzog
Linda Kevins
Eileen Mallon
Anita Prudenti
Marian Tinari
Nicole Zuvich

Composition of Committee: Includes a diverse group of Judges, a support magistrate, social services personnel, attorneys in private practice and government service, women's services representatives, judicial secretaries, principal court analyst, court clerk specialist, associate court clerk, court attorney-referee, assistant district attorney's, resource coordinator, principal court attorney, director of Suffolk County Bar Association, court officer major, director of the childrens center, resource coordinator, senior court analyst, appellate division, 2nd dept., resource coordinator, IDV Part, law clerk, member of EAC, Inc., court assistant to support magistrate, attorney with Nassau Suffolk Law Services, chief court attorney law department, president of Suffolk County Women's Bar Association.

Dates of Meetings: 11/16/11, 12/13/11, 2/10/12, 3/15/12, 4/19/12, 5/16/12, 6/19/12, 9/18/12, 10/23/12.

Average Attendance: 15 Participants per meeting.

Video Conferencing: At each meeting we utilize video conferencing between Central Islip and Riverhead to facilitate member attendance.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012: On October 17, 2012, our committee, in conjunction with the Center for Court Innovation, presented a free continuing legal education program entitled: Human Sex Trafficking: The Legal, Clinical And Human Consequences. Our panelists were: Hon. Fernando Camacho, Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters, Eleventh J.D.; Courtney Bryan, Esq., Director, Midtown Community Court, Center for Court Innovation; Miriam Goodman, Clinical Director, Midtown Community Court; Kerriann Kelly, Esq., Bureau Chief, Suffolk County Special Investigations Bureau; Kate Mogulescu, Esq., New York City Legal Aid Society Trafficking Victims Legal Defense & Advocacy Project.

Activities for Women's History Month 2012: On March 23, 2012, our committee sponsored a women's history month celebration which honored three women who have left an indelible mark upon the Suffolk County legal profession and who were innovators in their time. We honored: Honorable Mary M. Werner, former Suffolk County District Administrative Judge and retired Justice of the Supreme Court; Honorable Catherine T. England, retired Supreme Court Justice and Family Court Judge and former president of the Suffolk County Bar Association; and Valerie

Manzo, Esq., First President of the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association.

In 2012, we are attempting to organize a women's history month celebration that dovetails with the national theme for women's history month: "Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics." Though we have not determined the exact content of this year's program, we have discussed the possibility of focusing on the Crime Lab, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, Forensic Interviewers, or Psychologists/Psychiatrists or Medical Professionals at the Child Advocacy Center.

Other Activities in the Past Year:

Breast Cancer Awareness Month subcommittee presented informational tables at prominent locations in public areas of the Courthouse in Central Islip and Riverhead which provided pamphlets about breast cancer, ovarian cancer and prostate cancer. Additionally, we ensured that the mobile mammography van visited both courthouses to provide screenings. Many visitors to the courts, including attorneys, court personnel, prospective jurors and litigants received valuable information during this event.

Heart Health Subcommittee: On February 1st and 2nd, we distributed information at the courthouse in Central Islip and Riverhead on heart health concerns and provided blood pressure and cholesterol screenings for over 40 people. A mobile unit from St. Francis Hospital provided care to those in Central Islip and 6 volunteers from the DA's Office in Riverhead assisted South Side Hospital with screenings in Riverhead.

Project Assist: This subcommittee works to ensure that informational literature on non-legal, non profit services are supplied to kiosks located in the Central Islip and Riverhead courthouses so that litigants are educated about services that are available to them. Many of the materials are bi-lingual or in foreign languages. Recently, we have had more difficulty accessing materials as providers expect consumers to access information on-line. Our committee will research ways to provide web site information and computer access to litigants.

Human Trafficking Subcommittee: In 2012, the Committee voted to create a subcommittee devoted to Human Trafficking issues. We began by inviting two speakers to address our subcommittee to begin our educational process so that we might further the dialogue and effect some positive change in this area in the future. Our first speaker was Assistant U.S. Attorney, Demetri Jones, who prosecuted some high profile trafficking cases on Long Island. Our second speaker was Jill Goodman, Esq., co-editor of the Lawyers Manual on Human Trafficking. Thereafter, the newly formed subcommittee organized the 2012 Domestic Violence Awareness month CLE on Human Trafficking.

Domestic Violence Subcommittee: This subcommittee, in conjunction with The Center for Court Innovation presented a free CLE event on January 20, 2012 entitled: "Danger Assessment in Domestic Violence Cases: A Training Seminar with Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell." This event was held at the Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center in

Riverhead, N.Y.. The Hon. Chris Ann Kelley and Hon. Toni Bean presented a CLE at the Suffolk County Bar Association on October 10, 2012 entitled: "The Domestic Violence Court: What Practitioners Need to Know." Kerri Herzog, Deputy Bureau Chief of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Bureau and a member of the Suffolk WIC, was a guest speaker at our meeting held on October 5th, 2011. At our meeting held on October 23rd, 2012, Professor Deseriee Kennedy of Touro Law Center was our guest speaker. Professor Kennedy spoke about Danger Assessments in DV cases and issues of Cultural Competency.

Children's Center: Our committee encourages efforts to support this vital program by publishing information about the wine and cheese fundraiser held at the Suffolk County Bar Association and the Bagels and Books Breakfast at the childrens center on October 17, 2012. We also publish information about the Children's Center Thanksgiving Holiday Food Drive. Co-chair Nancy Clifford also researched the possibility of another funding stream: the Hunger and Outreach committee of St. John's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring Harbor.

Guest Speakers: Additonal guest speakers addressing our committee included: Co-Chair and ADA **Nancy Clifford** On "Deadly Cocktail", which addressed Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs/Alcohol and Driving While Intoxicated cases along with Leandra's Law issues. This presentation focused on the increasing incidence of prescription drug related fatalities.

Geri Leon Esq. spoke at our meeting on November 11, 2011 on Work-Life Balance issues. This workshop provided strategies for women who confront multiple stressors at work and in our personal lives.

Plans for Next Year: Our committee plans to continue our current subcommittee work on Heart Health, Breast Cancer Awareness, Womens History Month, Project Assist, Domestic Violence Awareness, and Human Trafficking. We also address issues of concern with The Children's Center, sponsor an annual Holiday luncheon with the Administrative Judge, Justice Randall C. Hinrichs and WIC members, support the Adopt a Family program providing assistance during the holidays to a needy family and continue educating our membership on issues of concern to women by inviting outside speakers to address us. We also plan to continue expanding the work of our newly formed Subcommittee on Human Trafficking.

Challenges: As our committee is supported solely by donations made by members, we have struggled to provide refreshment, and gifts to ill members or honorees. Though we have our meetings at lunchtime and provide video conferencing, our attendance has not been as high as I had hoped. We do have a core of dedicated members though.

Collaboration: We have partnered with the Center for Court Innovation and the Suffolk County Bar Association and Suffolk County Women's Bar Association as well as Touro Law Center.

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

Hon. Richard Lee Price, Chair
Supreme Court Justice

Hon. Josephine Bastone, Vice-Chair
Court Referee

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2011 - 2012

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

Name and Title of Chair: Justice Richard Lee Price
Supreme Court of the State of New York
Bronx County Hall of Justice
265 East 161st Street
Bronx, New York 10451
Tel. # 718-618-3646
Fax # 718-618-3565
e-mail: rprice@courts.state.ny.us

Vice Chair: Hon. Josephine M. Bastone
Supervising Referee, Foreclosure Conference Part
Bronx Supreme Court
851 Grand Concourse - Room 6M12B
Bronx, New York 10451
Tel. # (718) 618 - 1344
Fax # (718) 618 - 3551
E-mail: jbastone@courts.state.ny.us

Members: Please note attachment of our stationary which lists all of our members.
(See stationary annexed hereto.)

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

Dates of Meetings*: September 8, 2011, October 3, 2011, February 14, 2012, March 27, 2012, June 12, 2012, July 17, 2012, September 13, 2012 (*Note: We also held various subcommittee meeting during the course of the year to set up programs for example such as *Women's History Month* and *National Domestic Violence Awareness Month*.)

Average Attendance: 10 - 15 attendees

Do you have access to Video Conferencing? No

***Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012 -** The 2012 Domestic Violence Workplace Education Day Program will be on *Human Trafficking*. We average approximately 200 people at the annual event.
(See flyers annexed)

Activities for Women's History Month 2012 - OUR 13th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION included:

Honorees/Women of Achievement:

DR. HAZEL N. DUKES, President, NAACP, New York State Conference - and
HON. A. GAIL PRUDENTI, Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts of New York State.

Women of Distinction Awards:

(4) awards were given to court/building employees.

Evolve Students' Awards:

Awards were given to (3) outstanding female middle and high school students who demonstrated a unique ability to rise above daunting circumstances in their young lives.

The event was presented in cooperation with the Bronx Women's Bar Association and co-sponsored by Billy's Bar Restaurant, Black Bar Association of Bronx County, Bronx Borough President, Bronx County Bar Association, Bronx County Clerk, The Columbia Society, Inc., Court Deli, Court Discount, Crown Donuts, D & J Variety, F.K. Exotic Gourmet Food Corp., Fun City Diner, Guardians Association, Leff Prescription Center, New York State Courts, Hispanic Court Officers Society, Loria Corporation, New York State Court Clerks Association, New York State Court Officers' Association, New York State Supreme Court Officers' Association, Olympia-Hearns Flower Shop, The Tribune Society, Inc., Yankee Tavern, and 161st Street Merchants Association.

Approximately 200 people attended the event. The feedback was tremendous.
(See flyer and program annexed hereto.)

Other Activities in the Past Year:

**National Domestic Violence Awareness Month - "Work Place Education Day"*
(November 1, 2011) "What Is Technological Abuse?": The introduction was done by the Subcommittee Chair, ADA Maria Rivero. The presenter was Ian Harris, Staff Attorney for the Day One Program. Mr. Harris provides legal advice, information, and direct representation to survivors of dating abuse and domestic violence. In addition to providing legal assistance, he also conducts trainings for adults and professionals about legal protection for survivors of relationship violence.

The feedback was excellent and extremely informational. Approximately 150 people attended this program.

The event was co-sponsored by: Black Bar Association of Bronx County, Bronx Borough President, Bronx County Bar Association, Bronx County Clerk, Bronx Civil Court, Bronx Criminal Court, Bronx Family Court - Gender Fairness Committee, Bronx Surrogate Court, Court Deli, Hispanic Court Officers Society, New York County Lawyers' Association - Law Related Education Committee, New York State Court Clerks Association, New York State Court Officers Association, New York State Supreme Court Officers Association, The Cervantes Society, The

Columbia Society, The Guardians Association of the New York State Courts, The Tribune Society, and The Yankee Tavern.
(See flyer annexed hereto.)

Food and Clothing Drives: Presently it is difficult for us to hold any food and clothing drives. We no longer have transportation available to us for the donations, and the organizations we contacted were unable to do pick-ups.

What are your plans for next year? Once again our plans for next year include: The Women's History Month Program, Domestic Violence Program, Food and Clothing Drives, Gender Fairness on Film Series, Meet the Author, a fashion show for those women trying to get back into the workforce, introduce a new program on Elder Care, CLE programs, and a special series of programs on *gangs and violence* in cooperation with the Bronx Borough President's Office and Commissioner Galen D. Kirkland, of the State Human Rights Commission.

What have been the biggest challenges or obstacles you have met in the last year?
The unavailability of a vehicle to transport the donations for a food and clothing drive. Funding for refreshments and reproduction of materials for events.

Have had fruitful collaborations with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects?
Yes, for example, co-sponsorships of programs with the Bronx Women's Bar Association, Bronx County Bar Association, Day One Program, and various other organizations.

Have you organized or helped to organize any programs on human trafficking?
This year? In past years?

In past years we have sponsored programs such as "Beneath The Veil," "Born into Brothels", and "The Day My God Died". Some of the organizations we have worked with sponsoring these programs are NYCLA - Women's Rights Committee, Women for Afghan Women, and NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

Please submit your annual report to:
Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel, NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, 25 Beaver St., Room 878, New York, NY 10004 or jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York



**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
Chair

HON. EFRAIN ALVARADO
Administrative Judge

265 East 161st Street
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice-Chair

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON
Administrative Judge

851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10451

In recognition of

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

Sponsored by

**THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
&
Bronx Women's Bar Association**

WORKPLACE EDUCATION DAY

***“Sex Trafficking in New York City:
Identifying Victims of Sex Trafficking in our
Court System & Practice Areas”****

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

12:30 to 2:00 P.M.

Bronx County Hall of Justice

265 East 161st Street

Assembly Room 691

PRESENTER

KATE MOGULESCU, ESQ.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS LEGAL DEFENSE & ADVOCACY PROJECT

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to:

Josephine M. Bastone @ 718-618-1344, Maria Rivero @ 718-590-2258 -or-

Bonnie Schnapper @ 718-618-3646

*CLE Credit Pending

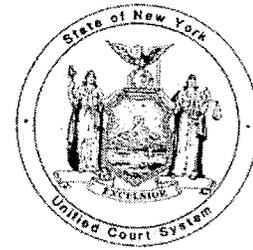
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Laura Bisignano
Carol Brumley
Sherry Callwood
Lisa Carrasquillo
Steven B. Clark
Hon. David B. Cohen
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Darlene Dove
Monica Dula
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Ann Wilson
Caren Yukelson

**THE BRONX COUNTY
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

&

THE BRONX WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION



HONORABLE EFRAIN ALVARADO
HONORABLE DOUGLAS E. MCKEON
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

HONORABLE RICHARD LEE PRICE
CHAIR
HONORABLE JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
VICE-CHAIR

Present

Women's History Month

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012

12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT
851 Grand Concourse

Women of Achievement

Dr. Hazel N. Dukes

President, NAACP

New York State Conference

Hon. A. Gail Prudenti

Chief Administrative Judge

&

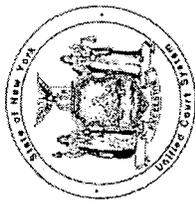
"Women Of Distinction" Certificates will be presented to notable
women

&

"E V O L V E" Student Awards

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to:
Hon. Josephine M. Bastone (718)618-1344
Emily Sanchez (718) 618-3664 -and- Bonnie Schnapper (718) 618-3646



Women's History Month Program Committee Members

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, CHAIR
MARIA RIVERO, ESQ., CO-CHAIR
MS. EMILY SANCHEZ, CO-CHAIR

Ms. Tania Antero
Ms. Sherry Callwood
Hon. Sharon Aarons
Ms. Laura Bisignano
Hon. Steven B. Clark
Ms. Joan Clodd
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THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HONORABLE EFRAIN ALVARADO
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIVISION
HONORABLE DOUGLAS E. MCKEON
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CIVIL DIVISION

HONORABLE RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR
HONORABLE JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, VICE-CHAIR

In Cooperation with

The Bronx Women's Bar Association
Eliza R. Filipowski, President

proudly presents

PROGRAM CO-SPONSORS

ASSC Reporters Within NYC · Billy's Bar Restaurant · Black Bar Association of Bronx County · Borough President · Bronx County Bar Association · Bronx County Clerk · City View Diner · The Columbia Society, Inc. · Court Deli · CSEA (Civil Service Employees' Association) · Derek Photographers · D & J Variety · The Guardians Association of New York State Courts · Hispanic Court Officers Society · Left Prescription (Bronx Prescription Center South) · Loria Corporation · New York County Lawyers' Association · Law Related Education Committee · New York State Court Clerks Association · New York State Court Officers Association · New York State Supreme Court Officers Association · Olympia-Hearns Flower Shop · The Tribune Society, Inc. · Yankee Tavern

Women's History Month

Program

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012 – 12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.
VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT
851 GRAND CONCOURSE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

2012 Women's History Month

INVOCATION

Darlene Dove-Malavé

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jessica Peña

OPENING REMARKS

Hon. Efrain Alvarado

Hon. Douglas E. McKeon

••

MODERATOR

Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.

••

2012 Women of Achievement

Dr. Hazel N. Dukes

President, NAACP

New York State Conference

Hon. A. Gail Prudenti

Chief Administrative Judge of the

Courts of New York State

••

PRESENTATION

Hon. Aurelia Greene

Deputy Borough President

••

Exceptional, Visionary, Optimistic, Leadership, Volunteerism, & Education

Awards

Jolee Allwood - Monsignor Scanlan High School

Daija Spaulding, Bronx School of Law & Finance

Precious Yeboah, Harry S. Truman High School

••

"WOMEN OF DISTINCTION" CERTIFICATES

SCO Karen Casey

Ms. Jessica Negron

Ms. Bonnie O'Rourke

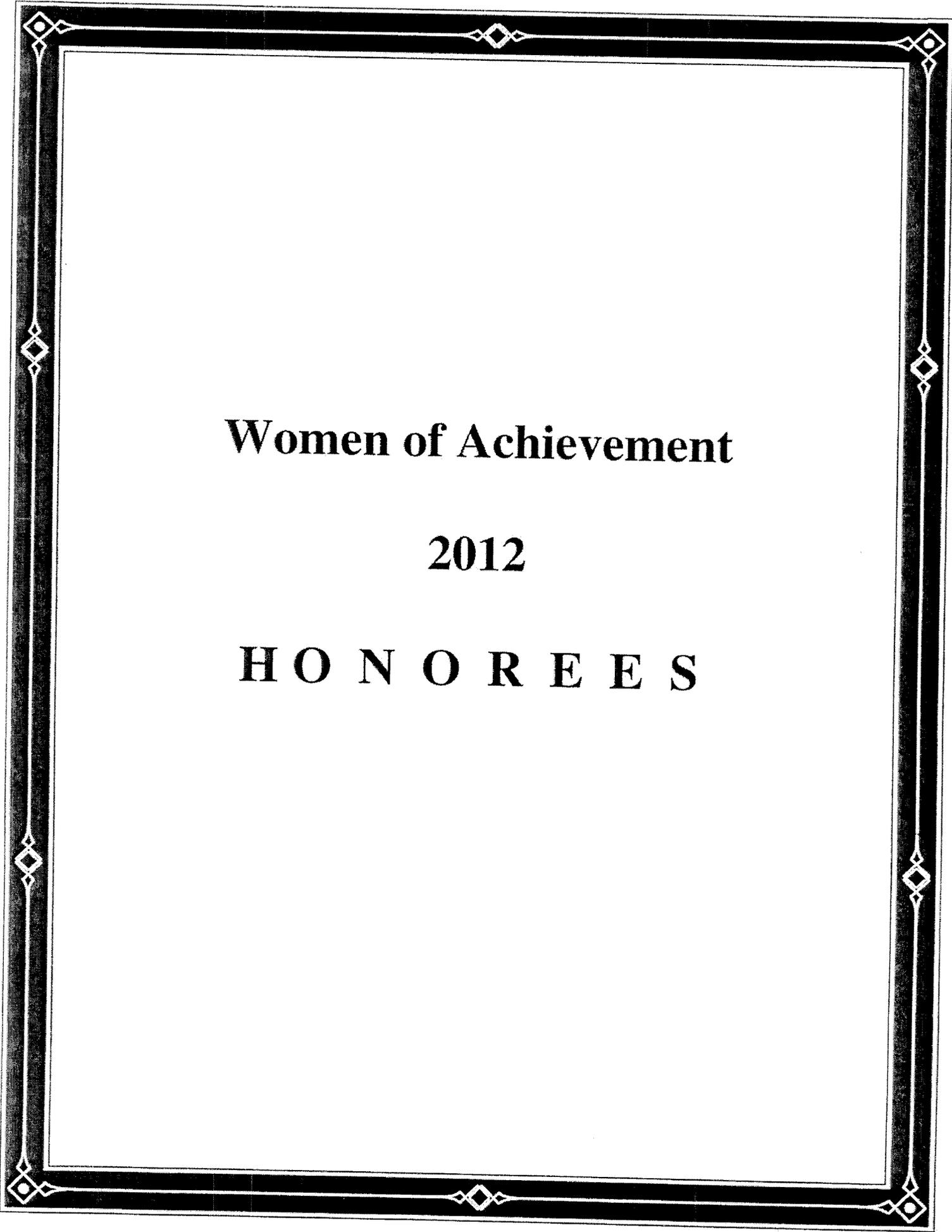
Ms. Jennifer Troy

••

CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Richard Lee Price

••



Women of Achievement

2012

H O N O R E E S

DR. HAZEL N. DUKES
President, NAACP New York State Conference



Dr. Hazel N. Dukes is President of the NAACP New York State Conference and a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors, a member of the NAACP Executive Committee, as well as an active member of various NAACP board sub-committees. Dr. Dukes is a woman of great strength and courage. Her dedication to human rights and equality is exemplified by her role linking business, government, and social causes. Dr. Dukes is an active and dynamic leader who is known for her unselfish and devoted track record for improving the quality of life in New York State.

A harsh system of civil and human injustice persists; intimidation, violence, and the recent rash of “nooses,” speak to the widespread de facto absence of a civil and human rights agenda in America says Dukes, and the fires of frustration continue to burn.

Dr. Dukes is President of the Hazel N. Dukes & Associates Consultant Firm, specializing in the areas of public policy, health, and diversity.

She is a member of the Assembly of Prayer Baptist Church, where she served as Executive Assistant to the Pastor, is a member of the Board of Trustees, and teaches the Adult Sunday School.

Dr. Dukes received a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Adelphi University, Garden City, New York and completed post-graduate work at Queens College. In 1990, she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the City University of New York Law School at Queens College, and in 2009 was conferred the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Dukes has many organizational affiliations: she is former President of the Metro-Manhattan Links Chapter, in 2010 was appointed the National Links NGO Representative, and is a former trustee of the State University of New York and of Stillman College. Dr. Dukes is a member of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., and National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc., and a member of the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Churches, USA.

Dr. Dukes is the recipient of numerous awards for her outstanding leadership activities: the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the YWCA City of New York John La Farge Memorial Award for Interracial Justice, the Guy R. Brewer Humanitarian Award, and in 2007 The Network Journal's 25 Most Influential Black Women in Business Award. She is a member of the Ford Motor Company Funds Committee of Honor for Freedom's Sisters, and was honored and received a Proclamation at the New York City Council's Third Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Awards ceremony at City Hall in New York. Dukes is an active member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Rockland County Alumnae Chapter and has been selected to receive the sorority's Althea T.L. Simmons Social Action Award in August 2010. Dr. Dukes was inducted in 2007 as a Pi Eta Kappa Fellow.

Her biography has been selected for publication in many journals and directories including: Fisk University Library, Minority Women Contribution, American Biographical Institute Personalities of Northeast, Who's Who Among American Women, and Who's Who Among Black Women.

“... if I can help somebody as I pass along; then my living shall not have been in vain.”

A. GAIL PRUDENTI
Chief Administrative Judge, New York State



The Honorable A. Gail Prudenti was appointed Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts of New York State, by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, effective December 1, 2011. As Chief Administrative Judge, she oversees the administration and operation of the statewide court system, with a budget of over \$2 billion, 3,600 State and locally paid Judges, and 15,000 non-judicial employees in over 300 locations around the state.

Prior to her appointment as Chief Administrative Judge, she served as the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division for the Second Judicial Department in New York State, the first woman to hold that position, having been appointed thereto, in February 2002, by then-Governor George E. Pataki. Before that, she was the first woman from Suffolk County to serve as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division for the Second Judicial Department. Prior to ascending to the Appellate Division, Judge Prudenti was the Administrative Judge for the Tenth Judicial District (Suffolk County) for almost three years. At the time of her appointment as a District Administrative Judge, in February of 1999, Judge Prudenti was also the Surrogate of

Suffolk County and was the first and only Surrogate in New York to hold the position of a District Administrative Judge.

In August 2011, then- Presiding Justice Prudenti was designated to serve as a Judge of the Court of Appeals for the hearing and determination of the appeal and any related motions in the case of Matter of World Trade Center Bombing Litigation.

Judge Prudenti's judicial career began in 1991 when she was elected to the New York State Supreme Court where she served until 1995, at which time she began her term as the first woman elected Surrogate of Suffolk County. In 1996, during her tenure as Surrogate, Judge Prudenti was also designated as an Acting Supreme Court Justice and received the additional responsibilities of presiding over a dedicated Guardianship Part. After six years as the Surrogate, Judge Prudenti was reelected to the Supreme Court bench.

She earned her law degree from the University of Aberdeen, in Scotland, which also awarded her an honorary Doctorate of Laws in 2004. She graduated from Marymount College with honors. Her first position was in the Suffolk County Surrogate's Court where she was a Clerk and then a Law Assistant. For two years following her service in the Surrogate's Court, she served as an Assistant District Attorney for Suffolk County. Over the next decade, she was a private practitioner specializing in trusts and estates and was special counsel to the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association's Widows and Orphans Fund. She has had extensive litigation experience in all the Surrogate's Courts in the metropolitan area.

Her legal writings are extensive. Over 1,000 of Judge Prudenti's decisions have been published and she has contributed articles to many publications, such as "The New York Law Journal," "Newsday," "The Suffolk Lawyer," and "The Jurist." She has also published handbooks for guardians ad litem and has written extensively on guardianship proceedings.

Additionally, Judge Prudenti has been a frequent lecturer throughout Suffolk County, Long Island, and the State, appearing at seminars and other functions sponsored by the Suffolk Academy of Law, the New York State Bar Association, the New York State Surrogate's Association, the Office of Court Administration, the University of the State of New York at Stony Brook, Touro Law Center, the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, to name a few.

The judge is a member of the Advisory Panel of Judges of the New York State Lawyer Assistance Trust Program, a member of the Council of Chief Judges of the National Center for State Courts, a former chairperson of the Office of Court Administration's Mental Health Curriculum Committee for Trial Judges, co-chair of the Chief Judge's Task Force on Delay in the Courts, a member of the Chief Judge's Commission on Public Access to Court Records, a former member of the Chief Administrative Judge's Judicial Legislative Group, and a member of OCA's Gender Bias and Anti-Discrimination Panel. In addition, the judge is a member of the Judicial Section of the American Bar Association, the former Presiding Member of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association, a member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association and the New York State Women's Bar Association, a former co-chair of the Surrogate's Court Committee of the Suffolk County Bar Association, a member of the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association,

which she helped found, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Suffolk County Columbian Lawyers Association.

Judge Prudenti is an accomplished administrator and an experienced supervisor of large-scale court operations, including one of the busiest appellate courts in the United States. As Presiding Justice, she served on the Judiciary's primary decision-making body, the Administrative Board of the Courts, which provides direction and establishes statewide policies and practices for New York State's Unified Court System. In her various leadership roles, the judge has developed innovative programs and instituted many initiatives to enhance the administration of justice and promote the public's trust and confidence in the courts.

While appreciative of the recognition and numerous awards she has received throughout the years from assorted groups and organizations, Judge Prudenti feels her greatest honor has been the opportunity to serve the people of the State of New York. The judge lives with her husband and fellow lawyer and former Suffolk County Attorney, Robert J. Cimino, in the Village of Bellport.

Information about Judge Prudenti is also available on the [Executive Officers](#) page and in the [Judicial Directory](#).



Exceptional

Visionary

Optimistic

Leadership

Volunteerism

Education

A W A R D S

E. V.O.L.V.E. AWARDEES

2012

**Jolee Allwood
Monsignor Scanlan High School**

**Daija Spaulding
The Bronx School of Law and Finance**

**Precious Yeboah
Harry S. Truman High School**

JOLEE ALLWOOD
Monsignor Scanlan High School

Jolee Allwood is currently a Sophomore at Monsignor Scanlan High School. Immediately, upon starting high school, Jolee became involved in Scanlan's Sports Program, trying out and making it on the girls basketball team. She is well known as a tremendous team player. Jolee is also a talented member of the track team and plans to join the softball team this Spring.

In addition to showing off her athletic skills on the court and fields, Jolee has twice shared her musical talents with the school community by playing the steel drums effortlessly in front of 300 guests at Scanlan's Annual Christmas Concert.

In the field of Art, Jolee is extremely talented, constantly creating very detailed artistic pieces. She has been called upon numerous times by her teachers as well as school administrators to create designs, pictures, and drawings for various events and celebrations.

Recently, through her church, Jolee was nominated for the NAACP Student of the Year Award and is excited about the upcoming ceremony.

Jolee is a hard-working student who is very well admired by all her teachers. Academically, she is conscientious and does good to excellent work on a consistent basis. She is very pleasant and well mannered, always smiling and confident. Jolee is caring and considerate, as evidenced in school, but

especially in her interactions with her mother, who is her number one fan. Although they struggle financially, they are one very happy pair when they are together.

Jolee Allwood is well respected by her peers and is a tremendous asset to her entire school community. She is well deserving of any opportunities that come her way.

DAIJA SPAULDING
Bronx School of Law and Finance

Daija Spaulding is a sophomore at the Bronx School of Law and Finance, where her grade average remains above an 85. Although she is in her second year, Daija has enough credits to be considered a junior. She achieved the Honor Roll in Intro in Law and also received an Award for Perfect Attendance.

Daija's course work has included Criminal Evidence and Procedures, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2/Trigonometry, Latin, Chemistry, Physics, Global History I, and Computers. She took the A.P. History Exam while in her freshman year, achieving a score of 3. She is currently taking A.P. English.

While at school, Daija has participated in various activities. She is a member of the Latin Certamen Team. Daija is also on the School Mock Trial and Moot Court Team. As part of this team, Daija spoke at a citywide competition for the Moot Court debate team. She was selected as an attorney for the Mock Trial Team, where she is responsible for opening statements, as well as direct and cross examinations.

In 2010, Daija attended the Deloitte Women's Leadership Conference. In 2011, she participated in a trip to the University of Albany. She was a New York Cares Team Leader and volunteered with The Children's Village, where she was a counselor's assistant during the summer of 2011.

PRECIOUS YEBOAH
Harry S. Truman High School

Precious Yeboah is a junior at Harry S. Truman High School and is currently ranked first in her class overall with a GPA of 99.65%. She has a weighted average of 100.86% in her Social Studies concentration. Precious is extremely interested in community service and, as such, has been a member of the school's BuildOn Program for the past three years. BuildOn helps impoverished communities throughout the world build community schools where no schools existed before. This year, Precious was competitively selected to participate in the BuildOn Trek to Nepal during the mid-winter recess. She assisted in building a school for a needy region in Nepal and gained an invaluable service learning experience.

Precious participated in the March 19th New York State Democratic Committee meeting hosted by U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. She was selected for participation in this Youth Summit Program based upon teacher recommendations, her interest in politics and her outstanding academic record at Truman HS.

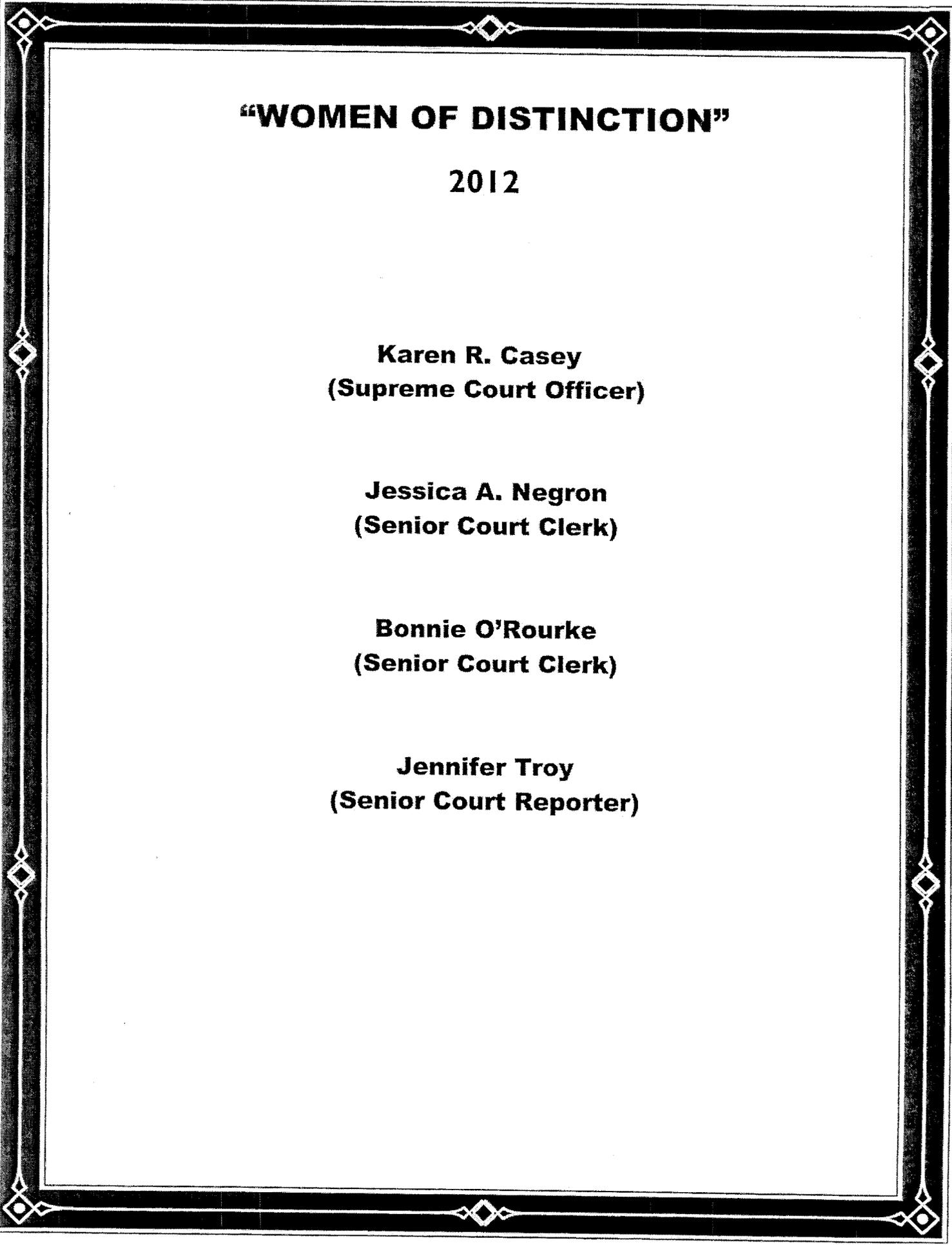
Precious has completed college courses in Truman's College Readiness Program earning an A+ in Bronx Community College's College Now Program as well as earning A's in Advanced Placement History, Calculus and Chemistry.

In addition to these accomplishments, Precious is a member of several organizations at Truman HS and within the community. She is enrolled in Truman's Law Program and is on the Law Team. Her passion for law led to her internship at the Wilkie, Farr & Gallagher Law Firm, which helped prepare Truman students for

the New York City Mock Trial Competition.

Precious was inducted into the National Honor Society for the 2010-11 school year and the 2011-12 school year. She is also a School Leadership Team member and a member of the Junior Achievement High School Heroes Program that helps educate elementary school children.

Outside of school, Precious is a member of the Youth Choir at the Temple of Praise in Bronx, New York. Since 2010, she has also interned at the Bronx Zoo and has been responsible for assisting with event scheduling at this long-standing New York institution.



“WOMEN OF DISTINCTION”

2012

Karen R. Casey
(Supreme Court Officer)

Jessica A. Negron
(Senior Court Clerk)

Bonnie O'Rourke
(Senior Court Clerk)

Jennifer Troy
(Senior Court Reporter)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Emily Sanchez (718) 618-3664

Bonnie Schnapper (718) 618-3646



In recognition of *Women's History Month*, the Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District will present its 13th annual awards program on Thursday, April 19, 2012, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., in the Rotunda of the Bronx County Building, at 161st Street and the Grand Concourse.

This year's *Women of Achievement* honorees are: **DR. HAZEL N. DUKES**, President, NAACP, New York State Conference, and the **HON. A. GAIL PRUDENTI**, Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts of New York State.

The *EVOLVE Award* was created to recognize outstanding female high school students who have demonstrated a unique ability to rise above daunting circumstances in their lives. We will be honoring three young women this year.

In addition, a highlight of the afternoon is the awarding of certificates to approximately four *Women of Distinction*, court system employees who have impressed the Committee by their job performance, or because they have overcome odds with supreme grace.

The Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District draws its members from every level of the court community, including bar associations, advocacy and prosecution agencies which service or appear before the courts, the Bronx Borough President's Office, the County Clerk's Office, and each of the various courts in the Bronx. The Committee was created 21 years ago in response to

recommendations of the Chief Judge's Committee on Gender Bias. Chaired by the Honorable Richard Lee Price and Co-Chaired by the Honorable Josephine M. Bastone, the Bronx Committee helps implement those recommendations, and seeks to further address and correct issues of gender bias and unfair practices that offend members of the courthouse community.

Past honorees of the *Women's History Month* program have included:

Hon. Judith S. Kaye, former Chief Judge of the New York State; Councilwoman Maria Baez; Ms. Gina Bolden-Rivera, Senior Vice-President of the Community Credit Bank and President of the New York Women's Agenda; Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Former Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department; Dr. Dolores M. Fernandez, President, Hostos Community College; Hon. Fern A. Fisher, Deputy Administrative Judge for the Courts of New York City; Hon. Anita Florio, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department; Minerva Melendez, Principal, Public School 69; Ms. Frances Barbaccia Fusco, President of Italian Big Sisters, and Assistant to the Bronx Borough President; Assemblywoman Aurelia Greene; Lenore Kramer, Esq., Past President of Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Bronx County Bar Association, and Bronx Women's Bar Association; Marjorie A. Lesch, Esq., Past President of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and the Bronx Women's Bar Association; Ms. Sana Q. Nasser, Principal, Truman High School; Ms. Hannah M. Nelson, Chief of Staff for the North Bronx Healthcare Network; Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives; Hon. Ann T. Pfau, former Chief Administrative Judge; Hon. Sonia Sotomayor, then Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second

Circuit and now Judge, United States Supreme Court; Elinor Tatum, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief, Amsterdam News; Hon. Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe, Clerk of the Court, Appellate Division, First Department; Dr. Nieca Goldberg, Cardiologist; Joyce Y. Hartsfield, Esq., former President, The Bronx County Bar Association; Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge; Ms. Elaine Brennan, Senior Vice President Operations, Montefiore Medical Center/Einstein Division; Justice Laura G. Douglas, Supervising Judge, Bronx Civil Court; Ms. Soledad O'Brien, News Anchor, CNN; Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Senior Associate Judge, NYS Court of Appeals; Jewel Williams, Chief, Department of Public Safety, NYS Unified Court System; Irene Cornell, Reporter, CBS Radio and the Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson, Administrative Judge, NYC Family Court, Ms. Rachel Lloyd, Executive Director, GEMS: Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, and the Hon. La Tia W. Martin, Supervising Judge - Matrimonial Division, Bronx County.

The court community and the public are invited.

4/2/12

TO: HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.
VICE-CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
CHAIR, WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2012

RE: APRIL 19, 2012 PROGRAM

The Gender Fairness Committee of the 12th Judicial District sponsored its thirteenth annual Women's History Month program on Thursday, April 19, 2012. Held in the Rotunda of the Bronx County Building, the event had over 200 people in attendance.

This year's honorees were Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, President, NAACP New York State Conference, and Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts of New York State.

In addition, the EVOLVE award was given to three promising high school girls. Four hardworking court employees were named Women of Distinction.

The program was moderated by Mortgage Foreclosure Conference Part Supervising Referee Josephine M. Bastone. Darlene Dove-Malave gave an invocation, which was followed by the National Anthem, sung by SCO-Sgt Denise Hill. Administrative Judges Efrain Alvarado and Douglas E. McKeon, Bronx Supreme Court - Criminal Division and Bronx Supreme Court - Civil Division, respectively, opened the program with welcoming remarks. Joan Clodd introduced Dr. Dukes. Hon. Richard Lee Price introduced Hon. A. Gail Prudenti. Floral arrangements were presented to the honorees by Lorraine Ramsey and Sandra Jefferson. Deputy Borough President (and past honoree) Aurelia Greene presented a Women's History Month proclamation, and citations to the two honorees. EVOLVE awards (presented by Laura Bisignano, Suzanne Kogan, and Kevin Quaranta) were given to Jolee Allwood of Monsignor Scanlan High School, Daija Spaulding of Bronx Schools of Law and Finance, and Precious Yeboah of Harry S.. Truman High School. Women of Distinction certificates were given to SCO Karen R. Casey, Senior Court Clerk Jessica Negrón, Senior Court Clerk Bonnie O'Rourke, and Senior Court Reporter Jennifer Troy. Justice Price then gave closing remarks, thanking the members of the committee and our co-sponsors, and inviting the audience to enjoy the lunch prepared by Yankee Tavern.

The names of committee members and of our event co-sponsors are on the attached program. Program co-chair Emily Sanchez and her committee member SCO Sandra Jefferson managed to collect sufficient monies from bar associations, unions, neighbourhood stores,

etc. to meet our expenses. Yankee Tavern kept our food costs down.. Further, program co-chair ADA Maria Rivero did an exceptional job in preparing the biographies distributed, and Judge Price's Confidential Bonnie Schnapper arranged for press coverage, among other things. Both members and non-members of the program committee assisted on the day of the event.

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York



**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
Chair

HON. EFRAIN ALVARADO
Administrative Judge

265 East 161st Street
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice-Chair

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON
Administrative Judge

851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10451

In recognition of

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
in cooperation with the Bronx Women's Bar Association

WORKPLACE EDUCATION DAY

"What Is Technological Abuse?"

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

12:30 to 2:00 P.M.

Bronx County Hall of Justice
265 East 161st Street
Assembly Room 691

PRESENTER

IAN HARRIS
STAFF ATTORNEY
DAY ONE

Lunch

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Sharon Aarons
Tania Antero
Laura Bisignano
Carol Brumley
Sherry Callwood
Steven B. Clark
Hon. David B. Cohen
Joan Clodd
Bonnie Cohen-Gallet
Hon. John Collins
Maria Cortese
Hon. Tandra Dawson
Betty Dominici
Darlene Dove
Monica Dula
Sheila Feinerman
Eliza R. Filipowski
Hon. Anita Florio
Earnestine Glover
Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez
Hon. Aurelia Greene
Celestie Guzman
Hon. Wilma Guzman
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn
Karen Hughes
Sandra Jefferson
Esther Kelly
Capt. Holly Kenn
Suzanne Kogan
Sheryl Konigsberg
Hon. Sue Levy
Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman
Robyn Mar
Sandra Marté
Hon. La Tia W. Martin
Susan McPartland
Deidra Moore
Major Ostacio Negron
Hon. Barbara Newman
Bernadette O'Rourke
Tracy Pardo
Sandra Prowley
Charlene Pulakos
Hon. Kevin J. Quaranta
Lorraine Ramsey
Maria Rivero
Hon. Gayle F. Roberts
Anthony Robinson
Major Jose Rodriguez
Hon. Norma Ruiz
Emily Sanchez
Bonnie Schnapper
Hon. Alison Y. Tuit
Jenifer Uhrwzick
Lorraine Venturella
Ann Wilson
Caren Yukelson

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to:
Josephine M. Bastone @ 718-618-1344, Maria Rivero @ 718-590-2258 -or-
Bonnie Schnapper @ 718-618-3646

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York



GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
Chair

HON. EFRAIN ALVARADO
Administrative Judge

265 East 161st Street
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice-Chair

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON
Administrative Judge

851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10451

In recognition of

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
IN COOPERATION WITH THE BRONX WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION
presents its annual program for

"Workplace Education Day"

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Bronx County Hall of Justice
Assembly Room 691

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Hon. Sharon Aarons
- Tania Antero
- Laura Bisignano
- Carol Brumley
- Sherry Callwood
- Lisa Carrasquillo
- Steven B. Clark
- Hon. David B. Cohen
- Joan Clodd
- Bonnie Cohen-Gallet
- Maria Cortese
- Hon. Tandra Dawson
- Betty Dominici
- Darlene Dove
- Monica Dula
- Eliza R. Filipowski
- Hon. Anita Florio
- Earnestine Glover
- Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez
- Hon. Aurelia Greene
- Celeste Guzman
- Hon. Wilma Guzman
- Hon. Arlene H. Hahn
- Karen Hughes
- Sandra Jefferson
- Esther Kelly
- Capt. Holly Kenn
- Suzanne Kogan
- Sheryl Konigsberg
- Hon. Sue Levy
- Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman
- Robyn Mar
- Sandra Marte
- Hon. La Tia W. Martin
- Susan McPartland
- Deidra Moore
- Major Ostacio Negron
- Hon. Barbara Newman
- Bernadette O'Rourke
- Tracy Pardo
- Sandra Prowley
- Charlene Pulakos
- Lorraine Ramsey
- Maria Rivero
- Hon. Gayle P. Roberts
- Anthony Robinson
- Major Jose Rodriguez
- Emily Sanchez
- Bonnie Schnapper
- Hon. Alison Y. Tuit
- Jennifer Uhrowczik
- Lorraine Venturella
- Ann Wilson
- Caren Yukelson

Opening:.....JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.
Vice Chair, Gender Fairness Committee

Welcome & Opening Remarks:.....HON. EFRAIN ALVARADO
HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON
Administrative Judges

"What Is Technological Abuse?"

Introduction:.....MARIA RIVERO
Administrative Assistant District Attorney
Bronx County District Attorney's Office

Presenter
IAN HARRIS - STAFF ATTORNEY
DAY ONE

Closing Remarks:.....HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, J.S.C.
Chair, Gender Fairness Committee

Program Co-Sponsors

- *Black Bar Association of Bronx County *Bronx Borough President *Bronx County Bar Association
- *Bronx County Clerk *Bronx Civil Court *Bronx Criminal Court
- *Bronx Family Court - Gender Fairness Committee *Bronx Surrogate Court *Court Deli *Hispanic Court Officers Society
- *New York County Lawyers' Association - Law Related Education Committee
- *New York State Court Clerks Association
- *New York State Court Officers Association *New York State Supreme Court Officers Association *The Cervantes Society
- *The Columbia Society *The Guardians Association of the New York State Courts
- *The Tribune Society *Yankee Tavern

Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Presentation

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

“What is Technological Abuse?”

On Tuesday, November 1, 2011, the Bronx County Gender Fairness Committee presented a program for Domestic Violence Awareness Month entitled “What is Technological Abuse?” Approximately 150 people were in attendance.

The featured speaker was Ian Harris, a Staff Attorney at Day One, where he provides legal advice, information, and direct representation to young survivors of dating abuse and domestic violence.

In addition to providing legal assistance, Mr. Harris also conducts trainings for adults and professionals about legal protections for survivors of relationship violence.

Mr. Harris used a powerpoint in his presentation. He first introduced the types of technology that everyone uses and then showed how the same technology can be used in an abusive manner - telephone, surveillance, computer and internet.

He then went into detail as to each technology.

-Telephone Abuse:

- Constant telephone calls and hang ups
- Constant text messages
- Instant messages
- Voicemail
- Sexting
- Spoofing

Response to Telephone Abuse

- keep a log
- change passwords
- save messages
- take pictures of text messages
- report to phone company
- block numbers

-Surveillance Technology Abuse:

- GPS – tracking via cell phones and other devices
- Cameras
- Social Networking sites

Response to Surveillance Abuse

- keep a log
- make sure GPS (phone or car) is not activated
- check list of social networking sites and remove your information

-Computer Technology Abuse:

- internet history
- spyware
- snoopsticks
- information aggregation sites (eg. - Spokeo)

Response to Computer Abuse

- do a google search to check what personal information is available
- download anti-spyware software and run spyware checks
- take screen shots of harassing information
- print IMS, text messages, e-mails and call logs

The presentation ended with Mr. Harris taking questions from the audience and answering the concerns raised by the audience.

Maria T. Rivero, Esq.

*Committee on Equality in the Courts for the
Twelfth Judicial District*

Hon. Elizabeth Taylor
Bronx County Civil Court



BRONX CIVIL COURT COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY IN THE COURTS

Hon. Elizabeth A. Taylor
Chair

Jenesha Tai, Esq.
Vice-Chair

Wanda Goodin
Secretary

Hon. Laura G. Douglas
Judge-In-Charge

Hon. Jaya Madhavan
Supervising Judge

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CO Regina Asselin

Hon. Mitchell Danziger

Hon. Marian Doherty

Hon. Laura G. Douglas

Robin Emmanuelli, Esq.

Ct Rep Susan Frank

ACC Lakisha Hickson

SCC Nanette Mack

Hon. Robert R. Reed

SCC Eugene Yates

Hon. Eardell Rashford

MEMORANDUM

TO: HON. JILL LAURIE GOODMAN
Counsel, New York State Judicial
Committee on Women in the Courts

FROM: HON. ELIZABETH A. TAYLOR
Chair, Committee on Equality in the Courts
For the Twelfth Judicial District

SUBJECT: LOCAL COMMITTEES' REPORTS 2011-2012

DATE: NOVEMBER 26, 2012

**I submit the following report on behalf of the Equality in the Courts
Committee for the Sixth Judicial District.**

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2011-2012

Name of the Committee: Equality in the Courts for the Twelfth Judicial District

Name and Title of Chair: Judge Elizabeth A. Taylor
Civil Court of the City of New York
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10451
Tel. # 718-618-2549
Fax # 718-590-7292
E-mail: etaylor@courts.state.ny.us

Members: Please note attachment of our stationary which lists all our members.

The composition of the Committee includes: Judges, Court Attorneys, Court Clerks, Court Officers, and Court Reporters.

Dates of Meetings: We generally correspond via e-mail and telephone.

Average Attendance: 75%

Do you have access to Video Conferencing: No

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012 and Women's History Month 2012: As the Family Court and Supreme Court Committees have programs for Domestic Violence Awareness and Women's History months, the Civil Court Committee has taken an initial focus on the self-represented and providing them with the tools to make their court experience more manageable.

Activities in the Past Year:

"How to Navigate Housing Court"

The purpose of this program was to assist people, who do not hire attorneys, to represent themselves in housing court. The committee was thrilled to have over seventy members of the community present. This program aimed to assure equality by educating the public on the functions of housing court. Participants were able to listen to representatives from various departments that operate within housing court. Additionally, representatives from housing assistance agencies discussed the resources available to a litigants in a housing court action. Pro-se litigants had access to a wide variety of informational books and how-to pamphlets to assist them. Participants in the program also had the opportunity to speak with the representatives in a question & answer period.

What are your plans for next year:

"How of Navigate Civil Court" and "How to Navigate Housing Court"

We received positive feedback and numerous requests to continue providing the Housing Court program and Civil Court program; and therefore, we plan to make them annual events. The Civil Court program affords self-represented litigants the opportunity to have the process of litigating a case in Civil Court explained and ask questions of representatives from the various departments within the courthouse. Participants are able to learn about the process of filing pleadings and papers. Also, attorneys discuss motions generally and give illustrations on how they are utilized in court. Representatives from various pro-bono agencies advise the participants on how to obtain free legal assistance. We are also considering additional program topics that will assist the self-represented when they enter our courts.

Have you joined with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects? Community representatives attend our programs and request that we assist them to duplicate our programs in their neighborhoods. On November 26, 2012, we are assisting Community Board 8 in Riverdale to present a Housing Court program.



**BRONX CIVIL COURT
COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY IN THE COURTS**

Hon. Elizabeth A. Taylor
Chair

Hon. Laura G. Douglas
Judge-In-Charge

Hon. Jaya Madhavan
Supervising Judge

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CO Regina Asselin

Tracia Callendar, Esq.

Hon. Mitchell Danziger

Natasha Demosthene, Esq.

Hon. Marian Doherty

Hon. Laura G. Douglas

Robin Emmanuelli, Esq.

Ct Rep Susan Frank

ACC Lakisha Hickson

SCC Nanette Mack

Hon. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez

Evelyn Raez, Esq.

Hon. Robert R. Reed

SCC Eugene Yates

in sponsorship with

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Present:

How to Navigate Civil Court

for the self-represented

Date: February 9, 2010

Location: Rotunda, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, N.Y. 10451

Time: 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Welcoming Remarks: Hon. Laura G. Douglas

Panel: CO Regina Asselin, Hon. Mitchell Danziger, Natasha Demosthene, Esq., Paul Feder, Esq., CCS Mary Ellen Guarneri, ACC Lakisha Hickson, Hon. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez, Jennifer Olaya, Esq., Hon. Robert Reed, Shanna Tallarico, Esq., and SCC Eugene Yates

Moderator: Hon. Elizabeth A. Taylor

*Gender Fairness Committee
Bronx County Family Court*

Hon. Carol Sherman
Bronx Family Court



FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
City of New York
County of Bronx

BRONX COUNTY FAMILY COURT
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 2011 to September 2012

**Gender Fairness Committee-Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol Sherman**

**October 3, 2011
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Hon. Carol R. Sherman
Jamie Bunyan, Court Attorney
Latrice Campbell, Court Attorney
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Beth Krause, Children's Law Center
Jessica Latour, NYC Law Department
Esther Roman-Halcomb, Case Coordinator
Jacqueline Saed, ACS Bronx Family Court Legal Services
Verena Solis, Safe Horizons
Rhonda Young, Case Coordinator

The Gender Fairness Committee met on June 8, 2011. Judge Sherman distributed the minutes of that meeting and the Annual Report concerning the Committee's work 2010-2011. Reports were received from the following subcommittees:

Supervised Visitation – CVO Cases Subcommittee

Subcommittee members include Jamie Bunyan, Beth Krause, Sue Levy and Judge Sherman. The subcommittee has met to discuss the lack of available supervised visitation programs in the Bronx and what efforts can be made to foster increased availability of such programs to Bronx families. The Interfaith Center of New York sponsors a supervised visitation exchange program at a church in Harlem and has been involved with the office of the Hon. Judy Kluger to examine ways to expand its services. Although the program is located in Manhattan, it is geographically close to South Bronx and the staff are receptive to serving Bronx families. This will be explored further. The next subcommittee meeting is Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

Supervised Visitation Subcommittee for Children in Foster Care

The subcommittee met on July 7, 2011. Paula Fendall, Director, ACS Office of Family Visiting, and David Dyer, Director, ACS Quality Assurance/Agency Program Assistance, met with subcommittee members, and presented information regarding family visitation at foster care agencies. The subcommittee learned that ACS does not mandate practices and policies for family visitation for children in foster care, does not strictly monitor foster care agencies in this critical area, and maintains no central compilation of information regarding the visitation practices of foster care agencies. The subcommittee plans to write a letter to the ACS Commissioner Ronald Richter requesting that ACS address these issues. The subcommittee's next meeting will be held on Monday, November 14, 2011.

Delinquent Girls in OCFS Facilities

Subcommittee members include Penney Belcher, the OCFS Liason in Bronx County Family Court, Jessica Latour, NYC Law Department, Rebecca Ivry, Legal Aid Society, and Patricia Decola 18B Panel. Ms. Belcher is gathering information requested by the subcommittee concerning the number and characteristics of girls in OCFS facilities, the location of such facilities, and the availability of services for young women in OCFS custody such as mental health services, reproductive health services, services for pregnant girls, and educational and vocational training. In addition, the subcommittee will review OCFS's plan to downsize or close some of its juvenile justice facilities. The next meeting of the subcommittee is Friday, October 28, 2011.

Subcommittee on Continuing Education Programs

Judge Sherman reported that there has been a change of membership. Katie Booth who co-chaired this subcommittee with Janette Cortes-Gomez has left Bronx Defenders Family Defense Practice. Another representative from Bronx Defenders will be designated. The subcommittee has met and has recommended that the Gender Fairness Committee sponsor an educational program on new legislation, which took effect June 15, 2011, related to the provision of services to incarcerated parents or parents who reside in substance abuse treatment centers who have children in foster care. In addition, the subcommittee is exploring a continuing education program on access to justice issues for non-respondent parents, particularly fathers, in Article 10 child protective proceedings.

Courthouse Facilities and Services to Children and Families

This subcommittee has met under the direction of Mike Williams. Mr. Williams has requested the Department of Citywide Administration Services (DCAS) to install changing tables for infants in all public restrooms in the Bronx County Family Courthouse. An update concerning the status of the installation of the changing tables will be provided at the next Committee meeting.

The next meeting of the Gender Fairness Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 1:15 pm, 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court.

**Gender Fairness Committee-Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol R. Sherman**

**December 8, 2011
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Hon. Carol R. Sherman
Janette Cortez-Gomez, 18B Counsel/BFCBA
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Sue Levy, Referee
Mary Anne Mendenhall, The Bronx Defenders
Melinda Oliver, 18B Panel
Esther Roman-Halcomb, Case Coordinator
Jacqueline Saed, ACS Bronx Family Court Legal Services
Barbara Stock, The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice
Patricia Whittaker, Court Attorney
Mike Williams, Clerk of the Court
Rhonda Young, Case Coordinator

Judge Sherman welcomed new member Mary Anne Mendenhall, The Bronx Defenders, and distributed the membership list for 2011-2012, the minutes of the November 14, 2011 meeting of the Subcommittee on Supervised Visitation of Children in Foster Care, and the minutes of the full Committee's meeting of October 3, 2011. The minutes of the Committee's meeting of October 3, 2011 were approved and accepted. Reports were received from the following subcommittees:

Supervised Visitation – CVO Cases Subcommittee

Judge Sherman reported that the subcommittee met with Reverend Chloe Breyer of the Interfaith Counsel and Anita Parker of St. Luke's AME Church in Harlem. St. Luke's AME Church currently sponsors a supervised visitation exchange program but does not provide supervised visitation services. The subcommittee believes there is a high level of need for more supervised visitation programs for Bronx families. The court will conduct a survey in the CVO Parts to get a sense of the number of referrals that are currently being made to supervised visitation programs, and, if additional resources were available, whether there would be a greater number of referrals. Members of the subcommittee are also exploring additional resources that might be made available for supervised visitation programs. The next meeting of the subcommittee is December 12, 2011.

Supervised Visitation Subcommittee for Children in Foster Care

Jacqueline Saed discussed the work of the subcommittee. The subcommittee had learned that there is a lack of mandates governing practices and policies of foster care agencies in the supervision of family visits for children in foster care. Further, it did not appear that ACS strictly monitors foster care agencies in this critical area. Nor does ACS compile a central listing of information regarding the policies and practices of each foster care agency with regard to visitation. Based on the subcommittee's findings, Judge Sherman, on behalf of this Committee and Hon. Anne-Marie Jolly, who chairs the Bronx County Child Protection Task Force, sent a joint letter on November 21, 2011 to ACS Commissioner Ronald Richter regarding these areas of concern. The subcommittee will reconvene after a response from Commissioner Richter is received.

Delinquent Girls in OCFS Facilities

Judge Sherman reported that Penney Belcher and Rebecca Ivry provided data concerning the number and demographic information about girls in OCFS facilities, the location of such facilities, and the type of services available to young women in each of the facilities. This fall OCFS implemented a downsizing plan and has closed and reorganized many of its juvenile justice facilities. The subcommittee is exploring plans for site visits to the facilities in the metropolitan region serving young woman.

Subcommittee on Continuing Education Programs

The subcommittee reported that it will meet to discuss sponsoring a CLE program. Some suggestions were programs related to the provision of services to incarcerated parents and parents who reside in substance abuse treatment centers who have children in foster care and the role and rights of non-respondent parents, particularly fathers, in Article 10 child protective proceedings. Janette Cortez-Gomez and Mary Anne Mendenhall will co-chair this subcommittee. Judge Sherman provided them with information about CLE programs that other Gender Fairness Committees have sponsored or co-sponsored.

Courthouse Facilities and Services to Children and Families

Mike Williams reported that there was a meeting with the Department of Citywide Administration Services (DCAS) regarding renovations in the courthouse including the installation of changing tables for infants in all public restrooms in the Bronx County Family Courthouse. DCAS stated that the changing tables will be installed as part of the renovation plan. The initial phase of the renovation, on the 9th Floor, is

almost complete. The library/conference room has been reopened and the adoption unit has been relocated to the 9th Floor from the 8th Floor. The next phase will affect the 8th Floor, 2nd Floor, Lower Main, and the lobby.

The next meeting of the Gender Fairness Committee is scheduled for March 28, 2012 at 1:15 pm, 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court.

**Gender Fairness Committee-Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol R. Sherman**

**Minutes
March 28, 2012**

In Attendance:

Hon. Carol R. Sherman
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Kim Kavern, Director, Safe Horizon
Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy
Beth Krause, Children's Law Center
Sue Levy, Referee
Sofia Nivar, The Bronx Defenders
Heather O'Hayre, Court Improvement Project
Melinda Oliver, 18B Panel
Gigi Parris, The Bronx Defenders
Premila Reddy, Court Attorney
Jacqueline Saed, ACS Bronx Family Court Legal Services
Barbara Stock, The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice

Judge Sherman distributed the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2011, subcommittee meetings, and announcements regarding programs in recognition of Women's History Month. The minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2011 were accepted and approved. Reports were received from the following subcommittees:

Courthouse Facilities and Services to Children and Families

Judge Sherman reported on behalf of Mike Williams. The Department of Citywide Administration Services (DCAS) is moving ahead with renovations in the courthouse. With regard to the GFC Committee's 2010 recommendation that DCAS install infant changing tables in the public restrooms of the Bronx County Family Courthouse, DCAS has not given a date or time frame for the installation. Members suggested that it might be helpful to contact Honorable Gail Prudenti, Chief Administrative Judge, regarding ways to expedite the purchase and installation of the changing tables. Judge Sherman will consult with Judge Drinane on next steps and advise the Committee.

Supervised Visitation – CVO Cases Subcommittee

Judge Sherman reported on the results of a survey of Bronx County Family Court Judges and Referees regarding the number of cases in which they would order supervised visitation if additional programs were available. During the 15 day survey period, the jurists and referees stated that orders would have been issued in an additional 21 cases. The survey underscores the great need for the expansion of supervised visitation programs. Kim Kavern, Director, Safe Horizon, stated that Safe Horizon currently offers supervised visitation in the Bronx County

Family Court week days from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM. The program has the capacity to supervise visitation for four families each week day. If court officers are available to provide security, Safe Horizon hopes to offer supervised visitation services on Saturdays, beginning in May, in the Bronx County Criminal/Family Court building, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and serve four families each Saturday. St. Luke's AME Church currently sponsors a supervised visitation exchange program but does not offer supervised visitation services.

Supervised Visitation Subcommittee for Children in Foster Care

Judge Sherman distributed an e-mail dated March 15, 2012, from ACS Associate Commissioner Leslie Abbey, Division of Policy, Planning and Measurement, updating ACS Commissioner Richter's response to the joint letter of November 21, 2011 sent by Judge Jolly and Judge Sherman (chairs of the Bronx County Family Court Gender Fairness Committee and Bronx County Family Court Child Protection Task Force). Associate Commissioner Abbey advised that ACS anticipated that it would release a revised family visitation policy later this spring. Jacqueline Saed of ACS has invited Nancy Thomson, Esq., Assistant Commissioner & Special Counsel, ACS Family Court Legal Services, to the next meeting of the subcommittee to clarify foster care contract provisions and performance standards that currently apply to foster care agencies.

Delinquent Girls in OCFS Facilities

Judge Sherman reported that the work of this subcommittee, which focused on service needs of adjudicated delinquent girls confined in facilities operated by NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), was suspended pending implementation of the "Close to Home" legislation. This legislation authorizes New York City to provide juvenile justice services, including placement facilities, to adjudicated delinquent youth who reside in the City. Upon approval of the City's Close to Home plan by OCFS, adjudicated youth confined in non-secure or limited-secure placement facilities will be placed in the custody of the Administration for Children's Services, instead of OCFS. This new initiative will transform the State's juvenile justice system.

Subcommittee on Continuing Education Programs

Gigi Parris and Sofia Navir, The Bronx Defenders, reported on behalf of Mary Anne Mendenhall and Janette Cortez-Gomez, co-chairs of the subcommittee, concerning a proposed continuing education program focused on the role of fathers, especially non-respondent fathers, in Family Court proceedings. A question was raised as to whether funds are available for a travel budget and/or speaker's fees and whether the conference can be held in court space. Judge Sherman stated she would explore whether resources were available from the statewide Gender Fairness Committee to support the CLE. Judge Sherman noted that the Office of Court Administration has proposed legislation concerning non-respondent fathers in Article 10 proceedings and there are experts in the New York City area who could present at

the CLE. Judge Sherman stated that the proposed CLE could be a joint project with the Bronx County Child Protection Task Force and asked the Subcommittee to work with Heather O'Hayre in planning the CLE.

Heather announced that a training program on the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children ("ICPC") will be presented by Manhattan Referee Pam Scheininger on June 25, 2012 from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. in the 9th floor library in Bronx County Family Court. The program will include general training on the requirements, application and operation of the ICPC plus an additional focus on recent amendments to many of the critical regulations. This program is approved for 1.0 CLE credits in professional practice.

The next meeting of the Gender Fairness Committee is scheduled for June 7, 2012 at 1:15 pm, 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court.

**Gender Fairness Committee-Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol R. Sherman**

Minutes

June 7, 2012

In Attendance:

Hon. Carol R. Sherman, J.F.C.
Jamie Bunyan, Children's Law Center
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Monica Eskin, Bronx Family Court Bar Association
Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy, J.F.C.
Sue Levy, Referee
Mary Anne Mendenhall, The Bronx Defenders
Sofia Nivar, The Bronx Defenders
Heather O'Hayre, Court Improvement Project
Nicholas Rapallo, First Deputy Chief Clerk
Premila Reddy, Court Attorney
Jacqueline Saed, ACS Bronx Family Court Legal Services
Barbara Stock, The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice
Patricia Whittaker, Court Attorney

Judge Sherman distributed the minutes of the meeting of March 28, 2012, which were accepted and approved. Reports were received from the following subcommittees:

Courthouse Facilities and Services to Children and Families

Nicholas Rapallo reported on the status of courthouse renovations. Renovations on the Lower Main Floor are almost done. This will provide space for the relocation of the locker room for the court officers to Lower Main from the 6th Floor. The Petition Room and the Intake Court for custody/visitation/family offense cases will move to the 1st floor lobby area this fall. This move will substantially reduce the numbers of people using the elevators. Also there will be increased signage directing persons going to Lower Main to use the escalators instead of the elevators. Due to a construction project in the Criminal Court, the Family and Criminal Courts will share one entrance at 900 Sheridan Avenue for eight to twelve weeks and this will be an added burden on the family court.

In regard to the status of the installation of infant changing tables in public restrooms in the Family Courthouse, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) made a commitment in 2010 to install the changing tables. Despite significant follow-up efforts by the Clerk's Office, DCAS has not given a time frame or date for the installation. Judge Sherman will advise Administrative Judge Richardson-Mendelson of the lack of progress with DCAS and seek her assistance in resolving this issue.

Supervised Visitation – CVO Cases Subcommittee

Judge Sherman reported that the Supervised Exchange Program at St. Luke AME is in effect. Mike Williams distributed a memorandum to Bronx agencies and the 18-B Panel that explains the program and the referral process. However, at this time, the program does not offer supervised visitation. Expansion of supervised visitation programs is a priority need, and the subcommittee will continue its work in exploring ways to develop such resources.

Supervised Visitation Subcommittee for Children in Foster Care

Jacqueline Saed arranged for a presentation to the subcommittee by Nancy Thomson, Esq., Assistant Commissioner & Special Counsel, ACS Family Court Legal Services, on May 10, 2012. Ms. Thomson clarified foster care contract provisions and performance standards that currently apply to foster care agencies in relation to family visitation. These issues were raised in the November 21, 2011 letter sent to ACS Commissioner Richter by Honorable Anne-Marie Jolly and Judge Sherman on behalf of the Bronx County Child Protective Task Force and Gender Fairness Committee. Ms. Thomson stated that a draft statement of guidelines that revises and clarifies family visiting policies was prepared by ACS in response to a proposal by the Early Engagement Workgroup. It was in the final stages of review within ACS and would be distributed to foster care agencies for their comment.

Subcommittee on Continuing Education Programs

The subcommittee chaired by Mary Anne Mendenhall and Janette Cortez-Gomez, has recommended a continuing education program focused on the role of non-respondent parents in Family Court child protective proceedings for this fall. Judge Sherman stated that the proposed program would be a joint effort with the Bronx County Child Protective Task Force and asked Heather O'Hayre to meet with subcommittee members to organize a planning committee for the program.

The next meeting of the Gender Fairness Committee is scheduled for September 11, 2012 at 1:15 pm, 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court.



Family Court of the State of New York
City of New York

CAROL R. SHERMAN
JUDGE

CHAMBERS
900 SHERIDAN AVENUE
BRONX, N.Y. 10451

Honorable Edwina Richardson- Mendelson
Administrative Judge of the New York City Family Court
New York County Family Court
60 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10013

Dear Judge Richardson- Mendelson:

Over the past two years, the Bronx Family Court Gender Fairness Committee has been working on the installation of changing tables in the public restrooms of the courthouse. At this time there are no changing tables in any of the public restrooms. In Fall 2010, Mike Williams, Clerk of Bronx Family Court, submitted a requisition for the tables. In January 2011, Mike Williams reported that DCAS had agreed to install the tables and Mike Cilluffo had provided DCAS with a list of locations. However, no action was taken by DCAS. In December 2011, Mike Williams reported that he was told by DCAS that the changing tables would be installed as part of the renovation plan and no date or timetable could be given for their installation. Both Mike Williams and Nick Rapallo have followed up on this issue, but report that they are continuously told that the court will have to wait for the changing tables. Still no date has been provided.

It is most unfortunate that there are no changing tables in any of the restrooms in the courthouse. As you know, many litigants who come to Family Court often bring their infants and young children. They are forced to change the diapers of these babies and toddlers on the floor of the public restrooms or on the benches in the waiting areas. Neither of these alternatives is appropriate or sanitary.

We would appreciate any help you can give us in obtaining the tables and having them installed in the public restrooms as soon as possible. One of our members researched the changing tables in the Queens Family Court on the internet. They are produced by a company called American Specialties and cost about \$150. each. I have attached a copy of the specifications.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Sherman".

Carol Sherman

cc Hon. Monica Drinane
Michael Williams

**Gender Fairness Committee-Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol R. Sherman**

Minutes

September 11, 2012

In Attendance:

Hon. Carol R. Sherman, J.F.C.
Jamie Bunyan, Children's Law Center
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney, Family Court
Kim Kavern, Safe Horizons
Mary Anne Mendenhall, The Bronx Defenders
Sofia Nivar, The Bronx Defenders
Melinda Oliver, 18B Panel
Karen Otis, Senior Case Manager, Family Court
Premila Reddy, Court Attorney, Family Court
Nanette Schorr, Legal Services-Bronx
Jacqueline Saed, ACS Bronx Family Court Legal Services
Naita Semaj, Court Attorney, Criminal Court
Patricia Whittaker, Court Attorney, Family Court
Jeanettza Vazquez, Clerk's Office, Family Court

Judge Sherman welcomed new members and distributed the minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2012, which were accepted and approved. Initiatives for the new program year were discussed and reports from subcommittees were received.

New Initiatives

- Judge Sherman distributed the informational flyer for the "Dress for Success" Event, which will run from October 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012. Rhonda Young, Staff Liaison to the Committee, organized this event to support the work of Dress for Success, an organization that provides professional business attire free-of-charge to economically disadvantaged women. Signs publicizing this event will be posted throughout the courthouse and boxes for clothing donations will be placed on the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors. Judge Sherman encouraged members to actively support and publicize this event.
- Committee members discussed arranging for the mammography mobile van to visit the Family Court. In addition, interest was expressed in co-sponsoring events with the Bronx Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee.
- A subcommittee is in formation that will focus on issues affecting Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth and families involved in Family Court proceedings. Kings County Supervising Judge Paula Hepner was the chair of the citywide committee that published an extensive report. Currey Cook of Children's

Law Center has expressed interest in chairing the subcommittee. ACS recently released a draft policy statement for comment, "Promoting a Safe and Respectful Environment for LGBTQ Youth and their Families involved in the Child Welfare, Detention and Juvenile Justice System," which is available on the nyc.gov website. Judge Sherman invited members to e-mail Rhonda Young if they are interested in joining the subcommittee.

Installation of Infant Changing Tables in Courthouse Facilities

As a follow-up to the letter sent to Administrative Judge Edwina Richardson-Mendelson in July 2012, Judge Sherman stated that she hopes to have an opportunity in the near future to discuss the issue with Judge Richardson-Mendelson. Despite continuing efforts by the Clerk's Office, DCAS has not given a time frame or date for the installation.

Supervised Visitation – CVO Cases Subcommittee

The Supervised Exchange Program at St. Luke AME is in effect but no referrals for exchange services have been received from the Bronx. The need for supervised visitation services remains critical. The subcommittee is continuing its work in exploring ways to develop supervised visitation resources with St. Luke's and other programs.

Supervised Visitation Subcommittee for Children in Foster Care

Judge Sherman distributed the recently released ACS visitation policy, *Determining the Appropriate Level of Supervision Needed During Visits for Families with Children in Foster Care*, issued July 17, 2012. The new policy outlines best practices to guide casework staff in arranging family visits with children in foster care and revises and clarifies a number of family visiting policies in response to proposals by the Early Engagement Work Group and comments made by this Committee. Judge Sherman noted that the guidelines should be strengthened in regard to the timing of the child's initial family visit. The subcommittee recommended that visits occur within 24 hours of the child's removal if not barred by the family court. The new policy provides that initial visits shall take place within two business days of the child's removal unless the court sets a different time frame. Despite the need for further changes, the new policy is an important step forward.

Subcommittee on Continuing Education Programs

In a joint effort with the Bronx County Child Protective Task Force, the GFC Committee will sponsor a continuing education program this fall focused on the role of non-respondent parents in Family Court child protective proceedings. Nanette Schorr said that a representative from her office would be part of the planning committee. Lauren Meller nominated Jacqueline Saed to represent ACS. Denise Dizzine will represent the Clerk's Office on the planning committee. Judge Sherman will meet with the subcommittee to finalize plans for the program.

The next meeting of the Gender Fairness Committee is scheduled for November 14, 2012 at 1:15 pm, 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS EVENT

On behalf of the Bronx Family Court Gender Fairness Committee, I would like to organize a "Dress for Success" event to run October 1 - October 31, 2012, for the Bronx Branch Office located at 839 East 149th Street, Bronx, New York

"The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life."

The organization is in dire need of women's business attire of all sizes.

The organization will pick up donations from Bronx Family Court on the date designated by the Committee.

Donation boxes will be placed in a designated area on the 7th, 8th and 9th floors.

Dress for Success will send donations cards to allow each individual contributor to itemize their deductions.

For further information contact Rhonda T. Young, at (718) 618-2169 or by e-mail at rhyoung@courts.state.ny.us



FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
City of New York
County of Bronx

BRONX COUNTY FAMILY COURT
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Subcommittee on Supervised Visitation
in Custody/Visitation/Family Offense (CVO) Cases

2012



Family Court of the State of New York
City of New York

900 SHERIDAN AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

To: Members of the Gender Fairness Committee's Subcommittee on Supervised Visitation – Custody/Visitation/Family Offense (CVO) Cases

Re: May 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Hon. Carol Sherman (Chair; FC); Liberty Aldrich (CCI); Rev. Chloe Breyer (ICNY); Carl Di Lalla (FC); Alphonso Douglass (FC); Catherine Friedman (FC); Diane Goulding (FC); Kim Kavern (Safe Horizon); Beth Krause (CLC); Terry Lawson (LSNY); Ref. Sue Levy (FC); Anushavan Margaryan (ICNY); Heather O'Hayre (FC); Premila Reddy (FC); Gilbert Rodriguez (FC); Mike Williams (FC)

Supervised Visitation and Exchange Projects

On April 10, 2012, Bronx Family Clerk of Court Mike Williams distributed a memorandum and referral forms to the Bronx Family Court judiciary and staff regarding the Supervised Exchange Project (SEP) at St. Luke AME Church. Alphonso Douglass, Gilbert Rodriguez and Associate Court Clerk Carl Di Lalla from the CVO division reported that there have been no referrals from the Bronx as of yet. After making minor changes to the memo explaining the program, Mike Williams will distribute the materials to Bronx agencies and the 18-b panel in the next few days to increase awareness of the program. Terry Lawson volunteered to send the materials to the DV listserv.

Anushavan Margaryan reported that he attended a meeting with Judge Pat Henry of the Brooklyn IDV Part and a judge of the Family Court about supervised exchange and visitation. He suggested that all information about programs be provided to the attorneys and advocates who appear in the court.

Kim Kavern reported that Safe Horizon is still negotiating for space for its expanded supervised visitation program. The program has hired staff and is starting to screen families but space remains a problem. The visits will likely not take place on Saturdays in the Criminal Court, but rather on weeknights in Family Court. Safe Horizon also is exploring using the Bronx Borough President's Office for evening visits.

Liberty Aldrich reported that no grant applications have been submitted to the federal Office of Violence Against Women (discussed at the March 1, 2012 meeting). Only government entities can apply for this grant for supervised visitation programs in domestic violence cases.

On April 23, a panel was held at the New York City Bar Association focused on supervised visitation. Liberty Aldrich, the Rev. Chloe Breyer, and Anita Parker were on the panel. It was reported that Rick Spitzer, director of Comprehensive Family Services (“CFS”), discussed the possibility of CFS contributing licensed social workers to supervise social work students to provide free/low-cost supervised visitation services.

Next Steps

Members agreed that there remains a need for more supervised visitation resources and that the number of court orders for supervised exchange does not reflect the need for supervised visitation. The discussion moved toward exploring the possibility of utilizing social work student interns to assist St. Luke in establishing a supervised visitation program. Committee members agreed to reach out to their contacts in the social work community in an effort to identify supervised visitation resources. Judge Sherman suggested involving regional social work schools (e.g. Hunter, Columbia, Fordham, NYU, St. John’s) and engaging in targeted outreach to social work professors who teach courses with a domestic violence focus. Such conversations could lead to partnerships and schools placing their students with the Interfaith Center of New York or St. Luke AME Church or other supervised visitation programs. A placement of a social work student in a supervised visitation program requires close supervision by a licensed social worker with a close connection to the program and who is certified to provide such supervision. Establishment of such placements would likely require fundraising efforts to support supervisory social work staff.

Ms. Aldrich and Rev. Breyer volunteered to contact Rick Spitzer in advance of the next subcommittee meeting regarding whether he is willing to partner on efforts to provide free supervised visitation services in community-based locations. Judge Sherman offered to participate in conversations after the initial contact is made. Discussion with Mr. Spitzer would include the issue of student supervision, manner of funding the project, and geographical challenges (CFS is in lower Manhattan and families from the Bronx would find it difficult to have visits there) and whether the social worker would provide supervision in other locations. St. Luke is not able to provide MetroCards to parents, and Safe Horizon has resources only to provide its client families with MetroCards.

Judge Sherman plans to reach out to Judge Kiesel and Caroline Oppenheimer of Bronx IDV again to see whether either of them are available to join the subcommittee and/or become involved in the discussion. Mike Williams reported that the SEP memo and forms were sent to Judge Kiesel’s clerks.

Rev. Breyer has contacted Laura Russell, Supervising Attorney of the Bronx Legal Aid Society Family/DV Unit, who is interested in the subcommittee’s efforts and plans to attend future

meetings. All agreed that making connections with other agencies would be helpful in getting the word out about Safe Exchange in the Bronx. After the SEP materials go out to the advocacy agencies and 18-b panel members, an information session featuring Anita Parker could be organized for the fall. Judge Sherman noted that at the end of this year and beginning of next, there will be changes in the roster of CVO judges due to retirements and transfers. She suggested that an SEP training for CVO judges would aid the subcommittee's efforts as well.

Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned to **July 12 at 1:15 p.m. at Bronx Family Court, 900 Sheridan Avenue, 9th Floor Conference Room.** An invitation will go out to Laura Russell of Legal Aid and Jessica Cuadrado, Esq., coordinator of the Bronx 18-b panel.



Family Court of the State of New York
City of New York

900 SHERIDAN AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

To: Members of the Gender Fairness Committee's Subcommittee on Supervised Visitation – Custody/Visitation/Family Offense (CVO) Cases

Re: July 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Hon. Carol Sherman (Chair; FC); Liberty Aldrich (CCI); Rev. Chloe Breyer (ICNY); Maureen Curtis (Safe Horizon); Barbara DeMayo (FC); Carl Di Lalla (FC); Alphonso Douglass (FC); Catherine Friedman (FC); Michael Greifinger (Bronx Family 18-b panel member); Kim Kavern (Safe Horizon); Beth Krause (CLC); Ref. Sue Levy (FC); Anushavan Margaryan (ICNY); Anita Parker (St. Luke AME Church); Premila Reddy (FC); Gilbert Rodriguez (FC)

Supervised Visitation and Exchange Projects

Anita Parker of St. Luke AME Church and Anushavan Margaryan and Rev. Chloe Breyer of the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) reported that there have been no new referrals to the supervised exchange program based at St. Luke AME Church in Manhattan. In an effort to continue to spread awareness of the program, materials will be sent to Terri Roman, Project Director of Domestic Violence in Bronx Supreme Court.

Maureen Curtis and Kim Kavern reported that Safe Horizon has been inundated with requests for supervised visitation. Safe Horizon was unable to secure space in Bronx Family Court on Saturdays or at the Bronx Borough President's Office in Supreme Court on weekday evenings for its

expanded supervised visitation program. Instead, with the assistance of Bronx Family Court Chief Clerk Mike Williams, Safe Horizon plans to hold visits in the Safe Horizon space on Lower Main from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. each weekday evening. Safe Horizon is exploring the possibility of extending visits until 6:00 p.m. Ms. Curtis and Ms. Kavern reported that Safe Horizon also has a supervised exchange program but the program has received fewer than five referrals due to shorter court hours. Pick-up is now at 4:00 p.m. with drop-off at 5:00 p.m.

In order for Safe Horizon to hold its visitation program in a church facility, extra security and authorization by project funders would be required. Ms. Curtis and Ms. Kavern noted that the project's funding is restricted in that the visitation program may take place only in a courthouse or other building with built-in security. St. Luke, which is across the street from a police precinct, is equipped with security cameras and male maintenance staff, but no formal security personnel.

Rev. Breyer noted that larger houses of worship have security and offered to speak with Safe Horizon staff about sites in the Bronx that may be appropriate for its supervised visitation program. To ensure security, supervised visitation or exchange programs would require space with separate pickup and drop-off areas.

Possible Expansion of the St. Luke Program

Ms. Parker reported that she facilitates one supervised visitation case at St. Luke which began as a supervised exchange case. Visits take place for three hours every other week. The judge presiding over the matter requires St. Luke to provide reports with detailed observations of the visits.

Ms. Parker stated that St. Luke would accept new referrals for supervised visits – three hours every other week – for families where the security risk is low. Ms. Curtis highlighted risk issues that might arise in supervised visitation cases where there is a history of domestic violence, *e.g.* a child telling a non-custodial parent where he goes to school and inadvertently revealing details about location of his home. Volunteers would require additional training to build sensitivity to such information exchange before facilitating visits.

Judge Sherman noted that the jurist presiding over the matter would make the determination about the level of security needed for a given family and make the referral where appropriate. After the order is issued, the litigant would be referred to the designated clerk’s office to complete program enrollment forms.

Judge Sherman volunteered to draft guidelines for supervised visitation referrals to St. Luke and send them to Ms. Parker and Liberty Aldrich for comment. Subcommittee members noted that the Safe Haven guidelines concerning supervised visitation in domestic violence cases may be helpful in drafting guidelines. Barbara DeMayo offered to speak with Supervising Judge Drinane about launching the St. Luke supervised visitation program as a pilot in one or two parts.

Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned to **October 3 at 1:15 p.m. at Bronx Family Court, 900 Sheridan Avenue, 9th Floor Conference Room.**



Family Court of the State of New York City of New York

CAROL R. SHERMAN
JUDGE

900 SHERIDAN AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 5, 2012

To: Hon. Monica Drinane, Barbara Demayo, Catherine Friedman ,
Anita Parker, Rev. Chloe Breyer, Liberty Aldridge, Mike Williams

From: Hon. Carol Sherman

Re: Court Referrals to St. Luke AME Church-Supervised Visitation Program

Guidelines

1. All referrals should include the court order for visitation, current orders of protection, description of the case, reason for referral for supervised visits, restrictions on the visits (for example, if any of the visits may occur in the community or must be confined to the church), any special needs of the child(ren) (for example, if child is diagnosed with ADHD, autism, etc). The referral must also include name and contact information for the parties as well as all counsel and the Judges's court attorney.
2. Program staff shall meet with the parties and the child(ren) prior to the scheduling of the visits. At these meetings, parties may express and staff shall explore any concerns and issues. Program personnel shall provide the parties with the written rules and requirements of the program and discuss them.
3. Program may reject a referral after assessment of the family and the issues involved. The program staff shall contact the court attorney and counsel by email, FAX or letter if, after the interviews and assessment, it believes the referral is not appropriate for its supervised visitation program. Further, program staff may contact counsel and the court attorney if, after supervising visits, it finds it cannot continue to provide the supervised visitation.
4. The program shall provide a report to court and counsel describing the visits on each adjourned date.
5. Program may reject referrals based on capacity.

Issues to be resolved

1. Level of security available to program - In order to develop guidelines as to which cases to refer to the program and the level of prior family violence that can be handled by the program, information as to the security available is important.
2. What entity will be amassing the referral material to be sent to the program (Attorney for Child, Party's attorneys).
3. Who at the program will review the material, interview the parties and the child and assess the appropriateness of the referral.



FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
City of New York
County of Bronx

BRONX COUNTY FAMILY COURT
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Subcommittee on Supervised Visitation for Children in Foster Care

2012

**Subcommittee on Supervised Visitation for Children in Foster Care
Gender Fairness Committee-Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol Sherman**

February 28, 2012

In Attendance

Hon. Carol Sherman, Judge of the Family Court
Janette Cortez-Gomez, 18B Counsel/BFCBA
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Mary Anne Mendenhall, Esq., The Bronx Defenders
Mary Rocco, Esq. for Jacqueline Saed, Esq., ACS Bronx Family Court Legal Services
Aleaxandra Schonfeld, FCLS Intern, ACS Bronx Family Court Legal Services
Nanette Schorr, Esq., Bronx Legal Services, Chair, Early Engagement Work Group

Judge Sherman reported on actions taken since the November 14, 2011 meeting of the subcommittee. The joint letter dated November 21, 2011 by Honorable Anne-Marie Jolly, who chaired the Bronx County Child Protection Task Force, and Judge Sherman, was sent to ACS Commissioner Richter. The letter forwarded the subcommittee's findings on family visitation policies and practices for children in foster care. The subcommittee found a lack of mandates governing practices and policies of foster care agencies in the supervision of family visits for children in foster care; a lack of monitoring by ACS in this critical area; and a lack of a central listing of information regarding the policies and practices of each foster care agency with regard to visitation. By letter dated December 29, 2011, ACS Commissioner Richter responded to the joint letter stating that ACS was undertaking a careful review of its visitation policies in light of the subcommittee's findings, and would release new visitation policies and best practice guidelines early in 2012. ACS has not issued the new policy as yet and today's meeting was scheduled to discuss an agenda for the subcommittee in 2012 in areas related to family visiting.

Nanette Schorr stated that the family visiting protocol developed by the Early Engagement Work Group, was in its final stages of review at ACS. The Work Group, composed of representatives of the child welfare community and chaired by Ms. Schorr, developed a family visiting protocol and has asked ACS to adopt and implement it. The protocol addresses changes that can improve family visiting policies and practices, including expanding opportunities for parents and family members to have unsupervised visits with children in foster care. ACS Commissioner Richter has advised the Work Group that the protocol is in its final stages of review within ACS. However, before it is finalized, ACS will provide foster care agencies with a 30 day period for review and comment. Thus, it is not clear when the protocol will be ready for release.

Members discussed family visitation policy issues that remain outstanding, which in addition to the issues raised in the Committee's letter of November 21, 2011, include an understanding of foster care agency contract requirements that apply to family visiting and whether ACS monitors and enforces such contract requirements. Judge Sherman will explore whether the contract standards are available via the ACS website or whether a formal request for the standards must be made. Nanette Schorr recommended that the subcommittee invite Nancy Thomson, Esq., Assistant Commissioner & Special Counsel, ACS Family Court Legal Services, who is also a member of the Early Engagement Work Group, to come to the next subcommittee meeting to discuss foster care contract requirements and performance standards that apply to family visitation. Mary Rocco offered to contact Ms. Thomson and advise her of the subcommittee's interest in having her participate in the subcommittee's next meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at 1:15 PM, in the 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court, 900 Sheridan Avenue, Bronx, New York 10451.



CAROL R. SHERMAN
JUDGE

Family Court of the State of New York
City of New York

CHAMBERS
900 SHERIDAN AVENUE
BRONX, N.Y. 10451

November 21, 2011

Ronald E. Richter, Commissioner
Administration for Children's Services
150 William Street
New York, New York 10038

Dear Commissioner Richter:

We write as chairs of the Bronx County Family Court Gender Fairness Committee (J. Carol Sherman) and Bronx County Family Court Child Protection Task Force (J. Anne-Marie Jolly), whose members include judges, court staff, referees, and representatives of Legal Services-NYC, the Legal Aid Society, the 18B Panel, Bronx Defenders Family Defense Practice, the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and other service providers. The subcommittee of the Gender Fairness Committee, Supervised Visitation of Children in Foster Care, met with Paula Fendall, Director, ACS Office of Family Visiting, on March 15, 2011, and with both Ms. Fendall and David Dyer, Director, ACS Quality Assurance/Agency Program Assistance, on July 7, 2011, regarding family visitation at foster care agencies. Family visitation is one of the most critical factors in the reunification of families with children in foster care. Therefore, the subcommittee was most disturbed to learn the following:

- 1) ACS has no central compilation as to the family visitation practices and procedures of the foster care agencies with which it contracts.
- 2) ACS has no rules, regulations, procedures with which agencies must comply nor does it monitor the practices of the agencies:
 - regarding the specific periods of time that foster care agencies must make available for family visits on weekends and weekday evenings.
 - regarding the number of children and adult members and/or families permitted to visit in one room at an agency, and the minimum size of the room.
 - regarding the ratio of supervising agency staff to the number of children and family members visiting.
 - regarding the qualifications and training of the agency staff who supervise visits, whether the case planner assigned to the case

supervises the visits, and if not, if procedures are in place to ensure that the agency staff member who supervises the visit is familiar with the issues in the case and all court orders.

- regarding the physical facilities in which family visits take place, including the size and maintenance of the visiting room(s) and whether accommodations for children or family members with special needs and/or disabilities are available.
- regarding the availability of arrangements for supervised visits in the community.

3) ACS does not require agencies to schedule visits between children and parents within 24 hours of the child's removal. ACS Procedure #2010/02, Transition to Foster Care Services, dated February 22, 2010, requires that first family visits occur within "two (2) business days of the child's legal placement into foster care . . . OR assignment of a foster care agency to the child's case, whichever event occurs last . . ." Visits scheduled within "two (2) business days" of a court remand or assignment to a foster care agency permits lengthy periods of time to elapse before some parents and children actually see each other. The events of a remand or assignment of the child's case to the foster care agency are not necessarily related to the date of removal, the event most important to the child and his/her family. There is no question that removal is a traumatic event for a child, especially when a child is placed in non-kinship foster care, and allowing a significant amount of time to elapse before the child sees the parent exacerbates that trauma. Therefore, we urge ACS to mandate that an initial family visit occur within 24 hours of the child's removal from the parent, arranged either by ACS or the agency.

It is of great concern to us that ACS does not mandate practices and policies for family visitation for children in foster care, does not strictly monitor foster care agencies in this critical area, and maintains no central compilation of information regarding the visitation practices of foster care agencies. We appreciate your assistance in addressing these issues and await your response to the issues we have raised.

Very truly yours,


Honorable Carol R. Sherman, Chair
Bronx County Family Court
Gender Fairness Committee


Honorable Anne-Marie Jolly, Chair
Bronx County Family Court
Child Protection Task Force

cc: Honorable Edwina Richardson-Mendelson, Administrative Judge
New York City Family Court

Honorable Monica Drinane, Supervising Judge
Bronx County Family Court

Subcommittee on Supervised Visitation for Children in Foster Care
Gender Fairness Committee-Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol Sherman

May 10, 2012
1:15 PM

In Attendance:

Hon. Carol Sherman, Family Court, Bronx County
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Sofia Nivar, The Bronx Defenders
Melinda Oliver, Esq., 18B Counsel/BFCBA
Hon. Kelly O'Neill-Levy, Family Court, Bronx County
Gigi Parris, The Bronx Defenders
Premila Reddy, Court Attorney
Jacqueline Saed, ACS Family Court Legal Services

Guest Speaker:

Nancy Thomson, Esq., Assistant Commissioner & Special Counsel, ACS Family Court Legal Services, and member of the Early Engagement Work Group.

Handouts

- Community Visits Information Sheet
- Community Visits - Community Partnership Programs Contact List (Highbridge, Soundview and Mott Haven in Bronx County) that offer foster children, siblings and parents opportunities for non-traditional visits in the community
- NYC Administration for Children's Services, *Children's Services Scorecard* (updated July 15, 2011)

Judge Sherman welcomed Nancy Thomson to the meeting, and distributed information about community visits for foster children forwarded by Nanette Schorr, Esq., Bronx Legal Services, and Chair, Early Engagement Work Group, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Nancy Thomson advised that the draft proposal prepared by the Early Engagement Workgroup on family visiting policies was in the final stages of review within ACS and the next step was distribution of the proposal to foster care agencies for their comment. Judge Sherman noted that the Workgroup's proposal focuses on unsupervised visits whereas the subcommittee's work centers on supervised visitation policies. However, the subcommittee will be very interested in seeing the new visitation requirements issued by ACS, which will be based on the Workgroup's proposal.

Ms. Thomson discussed contract requirements that apply to foster care agencies pursuant to *Foster Care Quality Assurance Standards*, released as Appendix F to ACS's 2009 Request for Proposals, standards which govern foster care contract agencies effective July 1, 2011. Ms. Thomson clarified key issues raised in prior subcommittee meetings and addressed in the letter of November 21, 2011 sent to ACS Commissioner Richter by Honorable Anne-Marie Jolly and Judge Sherman on behalf of the Bronx County Child Protection Task Force, and the Gender

Fairness Committee, as follows:

- Contact between the foster child and birth parents must be established when the child enters foster care and a visit is to occur within two days of the child's removal from the parent's home.
- Evening Hours – Foster care providers are required to offer evening and weekend hours for visitation and show evidence of such extended hours in writing.
- Frequency & Length – ACS's visiting guidelines require that families with the goal of reunification visit at least one time per week for at least two hours. However, infants shall visit with their parents at least two times per week, and have more frequent visits that are shorter than two hours in length.
- Visitation Activities and Location - Visits are to take place at convenient times outside of the agency facilities as much as possible and are to be arranged to accommodate parents' and children/youth's schedules. Use of non-traditional, community-based visits are encouraged and collaboration between the agencies and Community Partnership Programs in arranging visits is encouraged (*see* Handout - Community Visit Information Sheet and Contact List).
- Supervision – Policy recommends that visits be unsupervised unless reasons for supervision are justified and can be clearly articulated and that recommendations to court comply with the above policy. The foster care agency is responsible for explaining and documenting the conditions that the parent must meet in order for the agency to recommend to court that supervision be lifted or lessened.
- Progression of Visiting Plan - Visiting plans are to be evaluated on a quarterly basis and shall be based on the agency's observation and assessment of the parent/child interactions. Fewer restrictions may be recommended to the court as the parent makes progress in caring safely for the child.

Ms. Thomson distributed ACS's *Children Services Scorecard*, a description of the annual evaluation that ACS undertakes of all foster care and preventive agencies, and discussed how ACS evaluates the compliance of foster care agencies with contract requirements. ACS evaluators read a random sample of 50 agency records and examine performance in four areas: safety, permanency, well-being and foster parent recruitment and support. In the area of permanency, ACS measures the frequency of parent and child visits, observations of the parent-child interaction during visits, the level of supervision, and the progression of the visiting plan. In the area of well-being, ACS evaluators assess sibling visits, the number of visits and sibling interaction. Discussion ensued as to the quality of case recording via the automated CONNECTIONS systems, the requirements for case recording regarding visits, and who at the agency is observing and reporting on the quality of family visits. Sofia Navir noted that CONNECTIONS allows a case aide to record progress notes in the place of the caseworker. Judge Sherman inquired about the role of the supervisor in ensuring that progress notes are

current and accurate. Ms. Thomson stated she would look into whether separate requirements have been issued pertaining to documentation of family visits in CONNECTIONS by supervisors, caseworkers and case aides.

Judge Sherman thanked Ms. Thomson for her informative presentation and adjourned the meeting. The subcommittee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 23, 2012, at 1:15 PM, in the 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court, 900 Sheridan Avenue, Bronx, New York 10451.

**Gender Fairness Committee-Bronx County Family Court
Subcommittee on Supervised Visitation for Children in Foster Care**

Chair, Hon. Carol Sherman

**July 23, 2012
1:15 PM**

In Attendance:

Hon. Carol Sherman, Family Court, Bronx County
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Mary Anne Mendenhall, The Bronx Defenders
Sofia Nivar, The Bronx Defenders
Melinda Oliver, Esq., 18B Panel
David Eskin, Esq., 18B Panel

The minutes of the meeting of May 10, 2012, were approved and accepted. At the May 10, 2012 meeting, guest speaker Nancy Thomson, Esq., Assistant Commissioner & Special Counsel, ACS Family Court Legal Services, stated that a comprehensive statement regarding ACS family visitation policies was in the final stages of review and would take effect after foster care agencies had the opportunity to review and comment. Judge Sherman noted that upon ACS's approval and release of family visitation requirements, the subcommittee will have completed a significant part of its work. Judge Sherman asked for recommendations regarding future work areas for the subcommittee. She noted that agencies rarely brought foster children to family court proceedings, especially permanency hearings. Members stated that although children are represented in court by attorneys, the presence of children in court is helpful to the decision-making process and promotes better advocacy, especially in developing meaningful visitation and educational plans for the child and his or her siblings. However, overall, the number of foster children who actually appear in court remains low. Members recommended that Referee Peter Kuper in Part 45, which specializes in serving APPLA (another planned permanent living arrangement) cases and Referee Catherine Guido in Part 48, be invited to join the subcommittee and discuss their experiences in regard to foster children's involvement in permanency hearings. Judge Sherman stated that she would explore whether the Referees could attend the next meeting of the subcommittee. The subcommittee meeting was adjourned to October 18, 2012 at 1:15 in the 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court.

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

Hon. Deborah Kaplan
Supreme Court, NY Co.

Gregory Testa, Esq.
Supreme Court Law Department

2011-2012 LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF THE COMMITTEE:

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

CHAIRPERSONS:

Hon. Deborah Kaplan
Gregory Testa, Esq.

SECRETARY:

Valerie Qualls

MEMBERS:

Simone Abrams
Doina Almazon
Lori Balaklaw
Hon. Arlene Bluth
Hon. Matthew Cooper
Patricia Garone
Elizabeth Gertz, Esq.
Hon. Judith Gische
Hon. Shlomo Hagler
Cecily Hernandez
Ta-Tanisha James
Joan Levenson, Esq.
Carmen Reyes
Rosaline Rosenfeld, Esq.
Hon. Lori Sattler
Gloria Smyth-Godinger
Ellen Wagner
John Werner, Esq.

DATES OF MEETINGS:

The Gender Fairness Committee holds monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month and sponsors major programs throughout the year.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:

The average attendance at our programs is between 100-150 guests. We advertise our

programs courtwide and send our advertisements to the New York Law Journal, local media, various bar associations, law schools, and professional associations.

VIDEO CONFERENCING:

Our courthouse has access to video conferencing technology.

2011-2012 PROGRAMS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH 2011/2012:

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, on October 6, 2011, our committee hosted a program regarding Elder Abuse which featured Joy Solomon, Esq., an expert in the field. Ms. Solomon is the Director & Managing Attorney of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, "The Weinberg Center," in Riverdale, New York, the nation's first comprehensive shelter for victims of elder abuse. Ms. Solomon has testified as an expert for the United States Senate Special Committee on Elder Abuse and is a frequent speaker and writer on issues of elder abuse and mistreatment. Ms. Solomon discussed her work at the facility, reviewed recent cases, and provided guidelines for identifying victims of elder abuse. The program was open to the public and attracted a large audience.

On October 25, 2012, the committee hosted a program entitled "Domestic Abuse: Online and Out of Line" which examined the online/mobile world and its impact on domestic violence. The program featured a presentation by Stephanie Nilva, Esq., Executive Director of Day One. Day One partners with New York City youth to end dating abuse and domestic violence through community education, supportive services, legal advocacy and leadership development. Day One also educates the public regarding the impact that the internet, social

media, and texting have on domestic violence. The program attracted an audience which included college and law school professors, attorneys, law students, and members of the judicial community.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2012:

The 2012 Women's History Month event took place on April 5, 2012. This program featured a special presentation by Galen D. Kirkland, Commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights. Commissioner Kirkland is an attorney with extensive experience in state government and civil rights issues, who has served in a variety of legal and policy positions. Mr. Kirkland is responsible for developing, managing, and executing strategies to prosecute systematic forms of discrimination through investigations and complaints initiated by the Division or by individual complainants, and for developing policies and legislation to advance the civil rights of all New Yorkers. Mr. Kirkland provided an insightful look at the mission of the Division of Human Rights, and discussed his past work in the field of human rights.

The committee also honored court employee Patricia Garone, by presenting her with the Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Garone serves as an Appellate Court Clerk of the Supreme Court, Appellate Term, First Department, and has previously worked as a Court Officer, a Senior Court Clerk/Appeals Clerk, and an Associate Court Clerk. She has worked in the court system for over 23 years and is a recipient of the Bernard Botein Medal for her outstanding service to the courts.

BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY 2012:

On May 3, 2012, our committee hosted its annual "Bring Your Children to Work Day" by

welcoming many children of employees for a day in court. This year, the children were greeted to a breakfast, listened to presentations by various employees of the courthouse, took part in a security equipment demonstration, participated in mock trials in which the children assumed the role of judges, jurors, witnesses, and attorneys, and attended a magic show conducted by an employee. The day ended with a pizza lunch and goodbye gifts. The committee was thrilled that the children had a fun and educational day in our courthouse.

THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM:

On May 2, 2012, our committee co-sponsored with the Jewish Lawyers Guild, the 2012 Holocaust Remembrance Program. This program featured presentations by the Honorable Martin Shulman, Associate Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department, and the Honorable Sherry Klein-Heitler, Administrative Judge, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Branch. There also was a moving candle lighting ceremony by Holocaust survivors and their family members.

This year's keynote speaker was Marcel Tuchman, MD, a survivor of Auschwitz and author of *Remember: My Stories of Survival and Beyond*. Dr. Tuchman described his own journey during the Holocaust and provided a moving account of his quest for survival. In connection with the program, during the week of April 30, 2012, two films focusing on Jewish culture and the Holocaust were shown during lunch time: *A Cantor's Tale* and *The Warsaw Ghetto*. The event also included a spectacular performance by the Ramaz Chamber Choir and featured a poster exhibition related to the Holocaust. A review of the event was featured on the Unified Court Systems intranet website.

CAREN ARONOWITZ UNITY IN DIVERSITY EVENT:

In June of 2011, the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity event was held. This annual event, was named in honor of Caren Aronowitz, a beloved court employee who passed away and who was instrumental in organizing many courthouse programs. The festivity featured a buffet of food of cultures from around the world, bagpipes, a musical performance, and a photographic collage which celebrates the diversity within our courthouse.

UPCOMING PLANS:

We look forward to present various educational programs during the 2012-2013 period. We hope to introduce a Health Fair/lecture event in the winter of 2013. We hope to continue upon the success of our annual events for Domestic Violence, Women's History Month, Holocaust Remembrance, Bring Your Children To Work Day, and the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity program.

CO-SPONSORSHIP:

Our organization has worked with other Gender Fairness Committees, various bar associations, including the New York Women's Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, and the Jewish Lawyers Guild, in presenting some of our past programs. We plan to continue to work with these, and other groups in the future.

PAST TRAFFICKING PROGRAM:

On April 11, 2011, our committee co-sponsored a screening of the documentary "Very Young Girls" and hosted a lecture following the film. The film was shown by the Gender Fairness Committees of the New York County Courts in conjunction with the New York and

Brooklyn Women's Bar Associations. After the film, three clinical and legal experts in the field spoke about their work. Julia Lawrence, Clinical Director of GEMS, explained to the audience the work of the organization which includes housing, counseling, legal services, and an alternative to incarceration for victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Lisa M. Friel, Esq. of the New York County District Attorney's Office, spoke about her work prosecuting rape and human trafficking cases, and Kathleen Slocum, Esq., senior staff attorney at Sanctuary for Families, discussed immigrant victims in the sex trafficking industry. A question and answer period followed the program and participants received CLE credit for their attendance.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE/OBSTACLES FOR COMMITTEE:

As the courthouse is promptly shut at 5:00 p.m., and due to the limited time period in which we can host programs, we can no longer host CLE's or programs in the evening hours which may attract more members of the community outside of our courthouse.

IN RECOGNITION OF
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK COUNTY, SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH,
BROOKLYN WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION AND NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

A PRESENTATION BY COMMISSIONER GALEN D. KIRKLAND
THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2012 AT 1:00 P.M.

NEW YORK COUNTY, SUPREME COURT, 60 CENTRE STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK
NORMAN GOODMAN JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, RM 452

This year, the Gender Fairness Committee of New York County, Civil Branch, proudly welcomes Galen D. Kirkland, Commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights. Commissioner



Kirkland is an attorney with extensive experience in state government and civil rights issues, who has served in a variety of legal and policy positions. In May of 2008, Governor David A. Patterson appointed Mr. Kirkland to serve as Commissioner of the Division of Human Rights. Mr. Kirkland is responsible for developing, managing, and executing strategies to prosecute systematic forms of discrimination through investigations and complaints initiated by the Division or by individual complainants, and for developing policies and legislation to advance the civil rights of all New Yorkers.

Prior to joining the Division, Mr. Kirkland served as Director of Program Development at the New York State Office of the Attorney General, where he also served as First Deputy Director of Policy Development. He also previously served as the Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New York, overseeing educational advocacy programs on behalf of students in the New York City public schools.

Mr. Kirkland was the Executive Director of the New York City Civil Rights Coalition, a multiracial organization of civil rights, religious, and community groups, where he formulated responses to bias-related violence and organized multiracial coalitions in certain neighborhoods. From 1978 to 1988, Mr. Kirkland served as the Vice President and General Counsel of the West Harlem Community Organization, Inc., where he developed low-income housing and promoted economic development. During this time, he was also President of the Association for Neighborhood Housing Developers, President of the Task Force on City-Owned Property, and member of the Board of Directors of Community Training and Resource Center. He started his legal career as an associate at Cowan, Liebowitz and Latman in New York City. Mr. Kirkland holds a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College.

The Gender Fairness Committee will also be honoring P.J. Garone, by presenting her with the Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Garone serves as an Appellate Court Clerk of the Supreme Court, Appellate Term, First Department, and has previously worked as a Court Officer, a Senior Court Clerk/Appeals Clerk, and an Associate Court Clerk. She has worked in the court system for over 23 years and will be a recipient of the Bernard Botein Medal for her outstanding service to the courts. Ms. Garone has served on various court committees including the Anti-Discrimination Panel, the Cultural Diversity Program, the Dance Theater of Harlem Committee, and is a cherished member of the Gender Fairness Committee.



State Commissioner of Human Rights Addresses Court at Annual Women's History Month Event



Greg Testa and Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Co-Chairs of The Gender Fairness Committee of New York County, Civil Branch, flank Galen D. Kirkland, New York State Commissioner of Human Rights

The Gender Fairness Committee of New York County, Civil Branch, presented its annual Women's History Month program on April 5, 2012, in the Norman Goodman Jury Assembly Room. The Honorable Sherry Klein Heitler, Administrative Judge For Civil Matters, First Judicial District, provided opening remarks and welcomed the audience to the celebration. The Honorable Deborah A. Kaplan, Co-Chairperson of the Gender Fairness Committee, provided an introduction for this year's guest lecturer, Galen D. Kirkland, Commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights.

In May of 2008, Governor David A. Patterson appointed Mr. Kirkland to serve as Commissioner of the Division of Human Rights. Prior to joining the Division, Commissioner Kirkland served as Director of Program Development at the New York State Office of the Attorney General, where he also served as First Deputy Director of Policy

Development. He also previously served as the Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New York, overseeing educational advocacy programs on behalf of students in the New York City public schools. He was the Executive Director of the New York City Civil Rights Coalition, a multiracial organization of civil rights, religious, and community groups, where he formulated responses to bias-related violence and organized multiracial coalitions in certain neighborhoods. Commissioner Kirkland served as the Vice President and General Counsel of the West Harlem Community Organization, Inc., was President of the Association for Neighborhood Housing Developers, President of the Task Force on City-Owned Property, and member of the Board of Directors of Community Training and Resource Center. He started his legal career as an associate at Cowan, Liebowitz and Latman in New York City, and holds a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College.

Commissioner Kirkland provided the crowd with an educational and insightful look at his work within the New York State Division of Human Rights. He provided an overview regarding how the Division of Human Rights develops, manages, and executes strategies to prosecute systematic forms of discrimination. Commissioner Kirkland also spoke about the importance of celebrating Women's History Month and recognized important female role models that influenced his own life and the lives of others. At the conclusion of his presentation, Commissioner Kirkland was presented with the Gender Fairness Committee's Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his many accomplishments and for his participation in this year's event.

P.J. Garone Honored

Following the presentation by Commissioner Kirkland, the Gender Fairness Committee presented the 2012 Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award to P.J. Garone. The Honorable Richard B. Lowe, III, Presiding Justice, Appellate Term, First Department, spoke about Ms. Garone's many accomplishments within the court system. Ms. Garone began working with the New York State Unified Court System

in 1988 as a Court Officer in the Civil Court, New York County. She worked as a Court Officer until 1993, at which time she became a Court Clerk in the Civil Court, New York County. She served as a Senior Court Clerk and Appeals Clerk through 1997. From 1997 through 1999, Ms. Garone worked as an Associate Court Clerk in the Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term. In 1999, she joined the Appellate Term, First Department, where she remains today, as a Court Clerk Specialist.

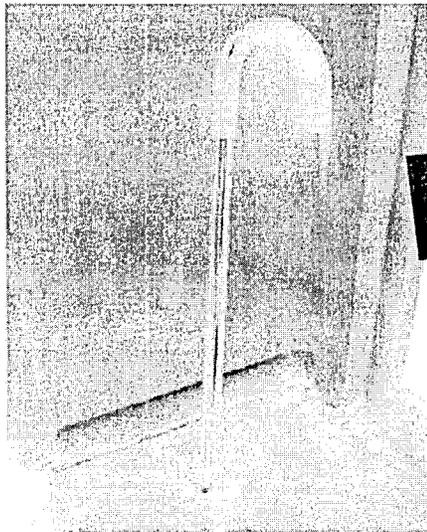
Judge Lowe also discussed Ms. Garone's involvement on various court committees. She has served on the Anti-Discrimination Panel, the Cultural Diversity Program, the Dance Theater of Harlem Committee, and is a member of the Gender Fairness Committee. She has assisted in planning and running various programs for the Committee, including the Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Program and the Annual Women's History Program. Along with receiving the 2012 Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award, Ms. Garone received a Bernard Botein Medal for her outstanding service to the courts. Ms. Garone was honored to receive the recognition and thanked her co-workers, committee members, and family.



Honorable Richard B. Lowe, III, Presiding Justice, Appellate Term, First Department, joked that he was not the most important "P.J." as he spoke of Ms. Garone's accomplishments.

In recognition of
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
The Gender Fairness Committee of New York County,
Supreme Court, Civil Branch
presents

ELDER ABUSE:



THE SECRET

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VERY FEW

DISCLOSE

Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
Where: Norman Goodman Jury Assembly Room, 452
New York County Supreme Court
60 Centre Street, New York, New York

featuring a presentation by
Joy Solomon, Esq.

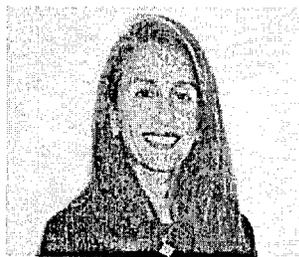
Joy Solomon, Esq., is the Director & Managing Attorney of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale, New York, the nation's first comprehensive shelter for victims of elder abuse. She is responsible for the daily management of the shelter, for the related civil legal issues of shelter victims, and for the development of the Center. Joy is an active participant in the New York State Summits on Elder Abuse, a member of numerous state and local coalitions and boards, and is a partner in the creation of the New York City Elder Abuse Center. She has testified as an expert for the United States Senate Special Committee on Elder Abuse and is a frequent speaker and writer on issues of elder abuse and mistreatment.

This event is free and open to the public.

October 6, 2011 Domestic Violence Awareness Program

- Welcome Hon. Deborah Kaplan, Co-Chair of
the Gender Fairness Committee,
Civil Branch, New York County
- Remarks Hon. Sherry Heitler,
Administrative Judge for Civil
Matters, First Judicial District
- Introduction of
Honoree Joy Solomon, Esq. . . Hon. Judith Gische,
Gender Fairness Committee Member
- Presentation Joy Solomon, Esq.

About Joy Solomon, Esq



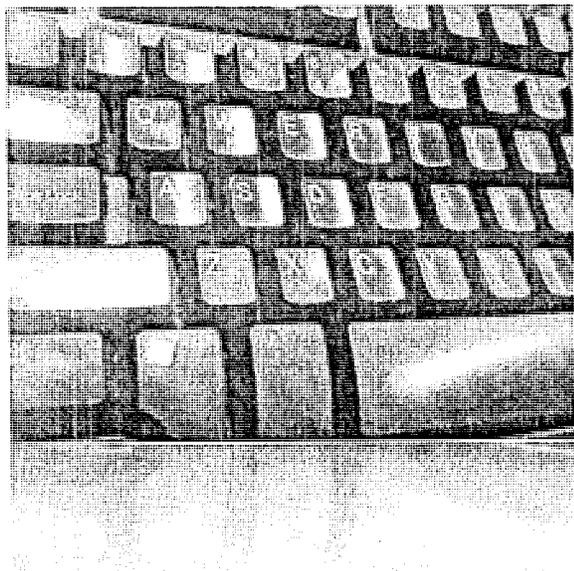
Joy Solomon, Esq., is the Director & Managing Attorney of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale, New York, the nation's first comprehensive shelter for victims of elder abuse. She is responsible for the daily management of the shelter, for the related civil legal issues of shelter victims, and for the development of the Center. Joy is an active participant in the New York State Summits on Elder Abuse, a member of numerous state and local coalitions and boards, and is a partner in the creation of the New York City Elder Abuse Center. She has testified as an expert for the United States Senate Special Committee on Elder Abuse and is a frequent speaker and writer on issues of elder abuse and mistreatment.

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to the Domestic Violence Subcommittee and Chairpersons, the Hon. Matthew Cooper and Gregory Testa, John Werner, Norman Goodman, Ray Denton, Camy Foreau, Patricia Garone, Michelle Gonsieski, Loren Schwartz, Irene Laracuenta, Valerie Qualls, and Naomi Ruiz.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: ONLINE AND OUT OF LINE

**LEARN HOW DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE HAS EVOLVED WITH
THE GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY
AND WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO
PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN.**



**In recognition of Domestic
Violence Awareness Month, the
Gender Fairness Committee, New
York County, Civil Term, will
feature a presentation by
Stephanie Nilva, Esq., Executive
Director of Day One. Day One
partners with New York City youth
to end dating abuse and domestic
violence through community
education, supportive services,
legal advocacy and leadership
development. Day One also
educates the public regarding the
impact that the internet, social
media, and texting have on
domestic violence.**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2012 @ 1:00 P.M.
NORMAN GOODMAN JURY ASSEMBLY RM, 452
NEW YORK COUNTY SUPREME COURT
60 CENTRE STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

In Recognition of
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
The Gender Fairness Committee,
New York County, Civil Branch,
presents

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:
ONLINE AND OUT OF LINE**

October 25, 2012
1:00 P.M.

Norman Goodman Jury Assembly Room
Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term
60 Centre Street, Manhattan, New York

The 2012 Domestic Violence Awareness Program

- Welcome Hon. Deborah Kaplan,
Co-Chair of the Gender Fairness
Committee, Civil Branch,
New York County

- Opening Remarks Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler,
Administrative Judge for Civil
Matters, First Judicial District

- Presentation Stephanie Nilva, Esq.

- Closing Remarks &
Award Presentation Hon. Matthew Cooper &
Gregory Testa, Esq., Co-
Chairpersons of the Domestic
Violence Subcommittee

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to John Werner, Esq., Hon. Norman Goodman, Donna Albano and the Part 36 staff, Doina Almazon, Lori Balaklaw, Ray Denton, Hon. Judith Gische, P.J. Garone, Michelle Gonsieski, Suzanne Haile, Esq., Cecily Hernandez, Lois Hernandez-McGibbon, Esq., Eileen Kaspar, Esq., Irene Laracuenta, Kevin Morrissey, Valerie Qualls, Rosaline Rosenfeld, Esq., Naomi Ruiz, Loren Schwartz, Hon. Stanley Sklar, and Ellen Wagner.

Thank you to the following two organizations for sponsoring our program:

The Supreme Court Judges Association

The Association of Law Secretaries to the Justices of the Supreme and Surrogates' Courts in the City of New York



Building
safe futures
for youth

P.O. Box 1507
Church Street Station
New York, NY 10013

P 212.566.8120
800.214.4150
F 212.566.8121

STEPHANIE NILVA, ESQ.

Executive Director

Stephanie Nilva is the Executive Director of Day One, an organization that partners with New York City youth to end dating abuse and domestic violence through community education, supportive services, legal advocacy and leadership development. Prior to establishing Day One in October 2005, Stephanie was the Director of Break the Cycle New York, which she launched as the local office of a national organization in 2003.

Stephanie is an attorney and she has been working in the domestic violence field throughout her legal career, practicing family and matrimonial law, specializing in relationship abuse. She has published two articles for practitioners on the subject of teen dating abuse and appeared on national television as an expert in the field.

Immediately following law school, Stephanie was the recipient of a New York State IOLA Legal Services Fellowship designed to provide community education and direct representation in response to domestic violence in the Orthodox Jewish community. Following her work in New York at both Legal Services for New York – Brooklyn Branch and New York Legal Assistance Group, Stephanie became the Acting Director and Managing Attorney at Community Law Center (now Law Center for Families) in Oakland, California. During her time in California, Stephanie also provided direct representation to clients in family law proceedings throughout Alameda County. Stephanie returned to New York and became the Executive Director of Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT), an organization devoted to helping individuals navigate the New York City child welfare and family court systems.

Born and raised in New York City, Stephanie graduated from Hamilton College with a Bachelor of Arts. She received her juris doctorate degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law where she was a Senior Editor of the *Cardozo Arts & Entertainment Law Journal* and a member of Cardozo's Bet Tzedek Legal Services Clinic. Upon her graduation, Stephanie received the Jonathan A. Weiss Award for Public Interest. In 2009, Cardozo presented Stephanie with an Alumni Inspire! Award for her work in the public interest.

Stephanie is admitted to the State Bars of New York, New Jersey and California.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

Sponsored by the

JEWISH LAWYERS GUILD

in cooperation with

**THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE OF THE
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH, NEW YORK COUNTY**

Wednesday, May 2, 2012, 12:30-2:00 P.M.

Supreme Court, New York County

60 Centre Street ~ Rotunda

Remarks and Readings

HONORABLE SHERRY KLEIN HEITLER

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, SUPREME COURT, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY BY

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND THE SECOND GENERATION

Remarks

HONORABLE MARTIN SHULMAN

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE APPELLATE TERM, FIRST DEPARTMENT

Keynote Presentation

Marcel Tuchman, M.D.

**Survivor of Auschwitz and Author of *Remember: My Stories of Survival
and Beyond***

"Dr. Marcel Tuchman's memoir is simultaneously a chronicle of despicable savagery and miraculous survival... It is also a tale of heroic self-sacrifice and indomitable spirit for survival... Finally, there is renewal of life that followed liberation..." [Abraham L. Gitlow, Professor and Dean Emeritus, New York University]

**A Performance of Two Songs by the Ramaz Chamber Choir
Daniel Henkin, Director**

For more information, or if you would like to participate in the candle lighting, please contact Justice Shulman at (646) 386-5687 or MShulman@courts.state.ny.us or Justice Deborah Kaplan at (646) 386-5567 or DKaplan@courts.state.ny.us

*Gender Fairness Committee,
New York County Criminal Court*

Hon. Rita M. Mella
NYC Criminal Court

**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
of the
NEW YORK COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT**

Date of Report: November 19, 2012

No. of members: 3

Chair: Hon. Rita Mella

No. of meetings since last report (August 31, 2011): 4

Composition: Judge and clerks.

Operation: During the last 14 months, our committee lost a number of its members as a result of the significant changes in personnel experienced by the Unified Court System since November of 2010, as well as a result of transfers of individuals to other work locations. During this period and despite the loss of members, our committee continued to organize and co-sponsor events and activities on gender equality issues with the objective of raising awareness among court staff and court users. Working in conjunction with other Gender Fairness Committees, the New York Women's Bar Association and other institutions made it possible to continue to organize these events and make them successful.

Events

The committee organized or co-sponsored the following events since our last report:

1) **Domestic Violence Awareness Month - Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse**

The Gender Fairness Committee of the New York City Criminal Court, in conjunction with the New York City Women's Bar Association, hosted a lunchtime program on October 27, 2011 entitled "Tanya's Story: The Link between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse." The program was held in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is October. Presenters were Susan Urban and Elaine Wolff of CONNECT Inc., Alliance for the Safety of Animals and People (ASAP). Approximately 40 persons attended.

The presenters introduced the audience to this important, yet often overlooked, component of domestic violence. Not only does the "circle of animal abuse" mirror the circle of family violence, but pet abuse, or the threat of it, is often used to control a partner or family member. Moreover, pet abuse is sometimes a precursor to partner/family violence. It has been estimated that at least 40 percent of women stay in an abusive home due to lack of accommodations for their pets. In a national survey of women entering a women's shelter, 71 percent of pet-owning women reported that their batterer had hurt or killed family pets and 32 percent reported that their

children had hurt or killed animals. Organizations like CONNECT Inc.'s ASAP are working to increase awareness of the link between pet abuse and domestic violence among social workers, as well as to expand the availability of animal care at shelters for domestic violence victims, and affiliated sites. At present, fewer than a dozen shelters nationwide allow pets.

The flyer for this event is attached.

2) International Women's Month - **Clothing Drive for Dress for Success**

In recognition of International Women's Month, the Gender Fairness Committees of the New York County Supreme and Criminal Courts, in conjunction with the New York Women's Bar Association and the Legal Aid Society, Manhattan Criminal Division, sponsored a clothing drive to benefit Dress for Success. Clothing donations were accepted on March 20, 21 and 22, 2012. The drive was so successful that the donation period was extended for two more days at the request of donors.

The following items were collected during the drive: 47 suits; 30 dresses; nearly 200 separates (pants, shirts and sweaters); 17 handbags; 25 pairs of shoes; and 11 scarves and pieces of jewelry.

Dress for Success is an international not-for-profit organization that promotes the economic independence of women who are overcoming obstacles, including former incarceration and homelessness, by providing professional attire, a network of support and career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

A copy of the flyer for this event is attached.

The Court's Specialized Parts

The New York County Criminal Court continues to have a **specialized part for Domestic Violence** cases. A resource coordinator, who is a full-time court clerk, coordinates the referral and follow up of defendants to treatment programs that are part of the court's mandate in the disposition in these cases, such as anger management programs and programs for batterers. The coordinator also provides information to the court regarding the availability of alternative sentencing programs in appropriate cases. The specialized domestic violence part continues to work jointly with the New York County Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV-C) in the Supreme Court, and cases are transferred to the IDV-C court when the families are involved in simultaneous proceedings in more than one court.

The **Midtown Community Court** still hears roughly 80% of the prostitution cases in New York County. Defendants charged with prostitution-related offenses are routinely sentenced to Midtown's wide array of social service offerings.

The Gender Fairness Committee of the New York County Criminal Court

in conjunction with

the New York Women's Bar Association
presents

TANYA'S STORY:

The Link between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse



Presenters:

- Susan Urban and Elaine Wolff
CONNECT, Inc.
Alliance for the Safety of
Animals and People (ASAP)

Thursday, October 27, 2011

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Room 535 at

100 Centre Street



Light refreshments will be served

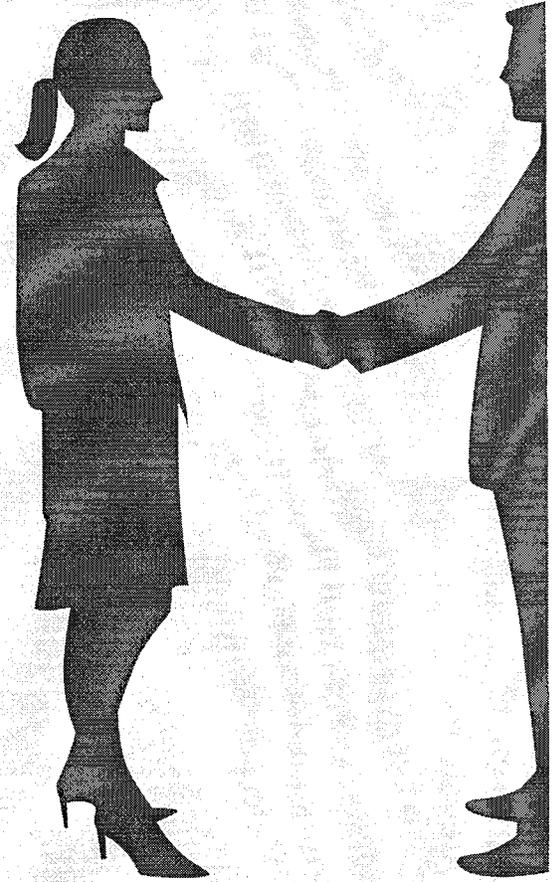


Donate Women's Professional Attire for a Great Cause: Dress for Success

The following office-appropriate items are accepted :

- Suits
- Blouses
- Skirts
- Pants
- Shoes
- Handbags
- Scarves
- Jewelry

in new or nearly new condition



When: March 20 to March 22

Where: 100 Centre Street - Rooms 423, 511 and 1604

SPONSORED BY:

The Gender Fairness Committees of the
New York County Supreme and Criminal Courts
in conjunction with
the New York Women's Bar Association and The Legal Aid
Society, Manhattan Criminal Division

In recognition of Women's History Month

For more information, contact:
Janet Curley (646) 591-4022
Mauline Murrell (646) 386-4575
Beth Folvik (646) 386-3581
Afsi Khot (212) 298-5381

For tax receipts, contact Janet Curley



DRESS FOR SUCCESS®
Going Places. Going Strong.

Dress for Success is a not-for-profit organization that promotes the economic independence of women who are overcoming obstacles, including former incarceration, by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Kings County Gender Fairness Committee (Supreme Court, Civil Term)

Hon. Gloria Dabiri
360 Adams Street, Room 370
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-296-1536

**SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY, CIVIL TERM
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2011-2012**

1. NAME OF THE COMMITTEE.

Supreme Court Kings County Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term

2. NAME AND TITLE OF THE CHAIR.

Gloria M. Dabiri, Justice, New York State Supreme Court

3. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Hon. Rachel Adams	Major Luz Bryan	Leah Richardson
Hon. Betsy Barros	Lisa Cruz	Noreen Soto-Fier, Esq.
Hon. Bernadette Bayne	Lucinda DiSalvo	
Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix	Donna Farrell	
Hon. Karen B. Rothenberg	Noel Hinds	
Hon. Marsha Steinhardt	Dina James	
Hon. Nancy Sunshine	Izetta Johnson	
Hon. Delores Thomas	Grace Machuca	
Hon. Albert Tomei	Yvonne Marin, Esq.	
Hon. Michelle Weston	Jeanette Mercedes, Esq.	
Loretta Argiro	Roderick E. Randall	

4. DATES OF MEETINGS.

October 5, 2011, November 17, 2011, February 21, 2012, March 13, 2012,
March 28, 2012, April 4, 2012, April 18, 2012, October 10, 2012.

Much of the work of the Gender Fairness Committee is performed through subcommittees.
For example, the Bring Your Child to Work subcommittee.

5. AVERAGE ATTENDANCE. 5

6. ACTIVITIES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH - 2011

TURN THE STATE PURPLE: SHINE A LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN

On **October 19, 2011** the Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term for a second time turned the courthouse at 360 Adams Street purple to shine a light on Domestic Violence, its many forms, victims and consequences.

As part of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence's "Shine a Light" campaign the Gender Fairness Committee encouraged those using the courthouse to wear purple, and had purple ribbons on hand for employees and members of the public. Notices were placed on the Employee Space web page advertising the campaign and indicating locations where ribbons could be picked-up on October 19th.

On October 19th posters were placed at the main entrances to the court house announcing the event, including the locations of a domestic violence resource table and ribbons. Ribbons with signage were conveniently placed in the main lobby, the central jury room, the Office of the County Clerk, the Surrogate's Court, and near the employee elevator. About 350 ribbons were distributed.

A resource table, staffed by the Center Against Domestic Violence, was situated in the main lobby. Domestic Violence specialists answered questions, distributed materials and made referrals. Handouts included NYS Crime Victim Board contact information cards, "What You Should Know About Stalking," "Sexual Harassment Is No Joke," "Rape - Never the Victim's Fault" and "Family Violence Hurts Children." Materials were available in Spanish as well as English.

7. **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITY - MARCH 2012**

"JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS IN THE CLASSROOM"

"Women's Education - Women's Empowerment" is the National Women's History Project theme for 2012. Reflection is made on the struggle women faced to gain entitlement to education and finally, an equal education. To honor this achievement in women's history and to promote empowerment through education, the Supreme Court Kings County Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term, during Spring 2012, sponsored "Judges and Attorneys in the Classroom."

During March, April and May 2012 **more than 26 Judges and Attorneys** spoke with students in elementary, junior high and high school classrooms throughout Brooklyn. The judges and lawyers sought to inspire students by talking with them about their work in the courts and their personal journeys.

Several judges visited more than one school. The feedback from students, teachers and judges/lawyers was outstanding. Children generally asked many questions. Administrators and teachers commented that the presenters served as valuable role models. Judges enjoyed the opportunity to share with the students what they have learned and looked forwards to repeating the experience.

8. **OTHER ACTIVES IN THE PAST YEAR.**

a. "SEEN BUT NOT HEARD" DEAF LITIGANTS, JURORS AND WITNESSES

On Thursday, November 17, 2011, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. the Committee in partnership with Barrier Free Living, a non-residential domestic violence program for deaf litigants, and Hands in Motion sign language interpreters, sponsored a lunch and learn for Judges. Topics addressed included how Judges can preliminarily assess the communication needs of deaf litigants, jurors and witnesses, the use of sign language interpreters (ASL vs. CDI), and new technology.

b. BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY – MAY 11, 2012.

Once again, this year, the Civil and Criminal Terms participated in the National Bring Your Child to Work Day event. A structured, informational and fun-filled program was organized for the children of court employees, age 7 thru 14, between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. 52 children participated.

The day began with registration and a snack. Administrative Judges of the Supreme Court's Criminal and Civil Terms Barry Kamins and Silva Hinds-Radix (via a pre-recorded video greeting) welcomed the children. Participants were then divided into an age 7 to 9 group, and an age 10 to 14 group for workshops. Workshops topics included Internet Safety, Bullying, Introduction to Citizenship and Mock Trial. The children were given guided tours of the courthouse and had photographs taken wearing a judge's robe.

Mario Belluomo, Cindy Cosentino, Lucinda Disalvo, Jean Marie Episcopia, Marcia Franqui, Deanna Giamportone, Dina James, Izetta Johnson, Yvonne Marin, Mackenzie Mendoza, Marsha Michael, Migdalia Plasencia, Jennifer Sampugnaro, Alfred Tartaglia, and Rhonda West are committee members who organized this event.

The event, including presentations, snacks and gift bags for the children, was made possible through collaboration with **The New York State Court Clerks Association, Association of Secretaries to Justices of the Supreme Court, New York State Supreme Court Officers' Association, The Cervantes Society, The Tribune Society, Inc, Association of Supreme Court Reporters, The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, The Kings County Supreme Court IT Department, The New York City Department of Education – Gang Intervention Unit, NYPD Community Affairs, Judges and court personnel.**

9. PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR.

- a. Conference – “Leadership Strategies for Women” in the courthouse and beyond.

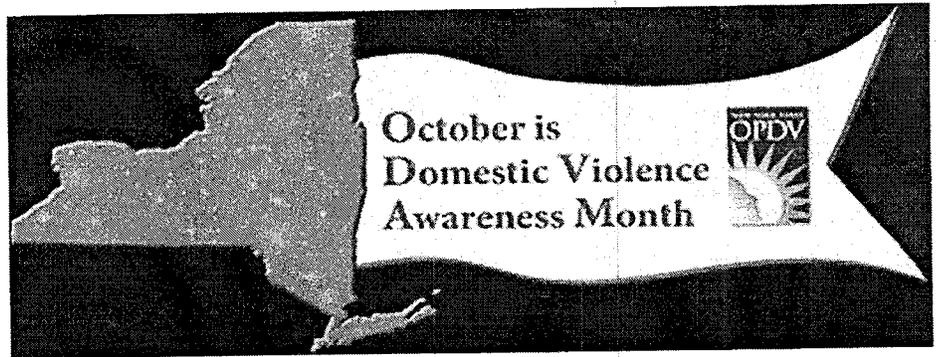
10. IMPORTANT ISSUES OF WOMEN AND GENDER IN THE COURTS THIS YEAR. UNMET TRAINING NEEDS.

- a. Sexual harassment training.
- b. Educating employees on the procedures for reporting complaints of discrimination and sexual harassment.

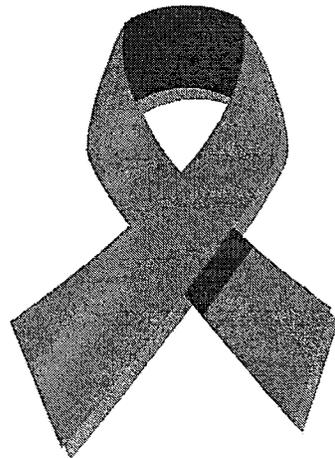
11. HELP WE WOULD LIKE FROM NYS JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS.

- a. Dissemination of program and event announcements.
- b. Assistance with identifying and obtaining event venues, speakers and resources.

Kings County
Supreme Court
Gender Fairness
Committee
Civil Term



Turn the State Purple: Shine a Light on Domestic Violence October 19, 2011



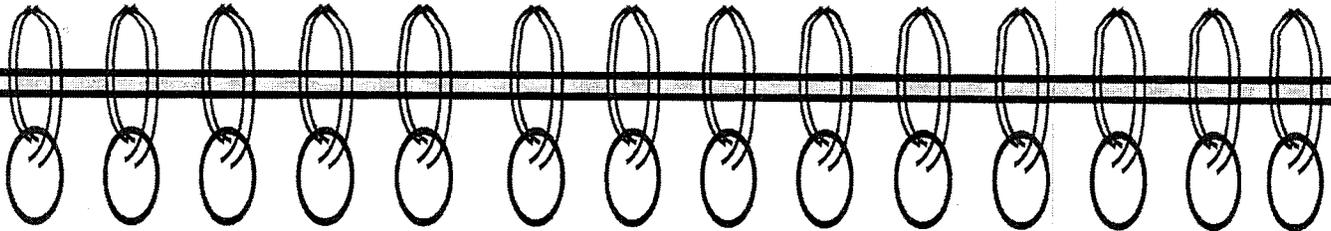
**Honor Survivors
Support Victims
Symbol of Courage
Dedicated to Ending
Domestic Violence**

Wear purple or pick up a Purple Ribbon

360 Adams Street Ribbon Pick- Up Locations

- Central Jury Room 261
- 2nd Floor Employee Elevator
- 2nd Floor Lobby
- Office of the County Clerk 1st Floor
- 10th Floor South

***Center Against Domestic Violence Representatives
360 Adams Street, 2nd Floor Lobby 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM***



SEEN BUT NOT HEARD ...

A Presentation

by

Barrier Free Living

- ▶ What tools are available to the deaf to communicate ?
- ▶ Which are most effectively utilized in a courtroom setting ?
- ▶ How to effectively employ sign language interpretation
- ▶ How to assess the needs of a deaf litigant, juror or witness
- ▶ The experience of deaf litigants in the Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Mental Hygiene, Guardianship, and Drug courts
- ▶ Experience of deaf citizens called for jury service and how to improve
 - ▶ ASL vs. CDI and more ...

Thursday, November 17th

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

11th Floor Conference Room, 360 Adams Street

Presented by the Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee, Civil Term

BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Friday, May 11, 2012
8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

At any time, you may give your child a short break from the program. We ask that you take no more than 30 minutes. You can also use this time to show your child what you do at work and introduce him/her to your colleagues.

MORNING ACTIVITIES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS - 320 Jay Street, Brooklyn New York

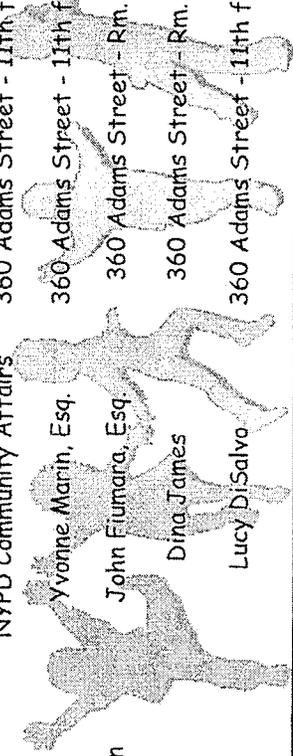
AGE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER	LOCATION
ALL	8:30 - 9:30	Registration - Photos Morning Snacks		320 Jay Street - Rm. 2.83
ALL	9:30 - 9:45	Welcome Remarks	Administrative Judges	320 Jay Street - Rm. 2.83
ALL	9:45 - 10:15	Kid Crimes	SGT. Jeanette Tavares DOE Gang Intervention	320 Jay Street - Rm. 2.83
ALL	10:25 - 11:25	Bullying Open Forum	SGT. Von Washington NYPD Community Affairs	320 Jay Street - Rm. 2.83
7-9	11:35 - 12:35	Mock Trial	Kerry Ward, Esq.	320 Jay Street - Rm. 20.58
10-14	11:35 - 12:35	Brains in the Family	Izetta Johnson	320 Jay Street - Rm. 2.83

12:35 - 2:00 TREAT YOUR CHILD TO LUNCH

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS - 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn New York

AGE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER	LOCATION
7-9	2:00 - 2:30	Who Wants To Be A Juror	Hon. Elizabeth Foley	360 Adams Street - Rm. 956
10-14	2:00 - 2:30	Internet Safety	NYPD Community Affairs	360 Adams Street - 11th fl brdm
7-9	2:40 - 3:10	Internet Safety	Yvonne Marin, Esq.	360 Adams Street - 11th fl brdm
10-14	2:40 - 3:10	Witness Identification	John Fiumara, Esq.	360 Adams Street - Rm. 956
7-9	3:20 - 3:50	Empowerment Mural	Dina James	360 Adams Street - Rm. 956
10-14	3:20 - 3:50	Dream Calculator	Lucy DiSalvo	360 Adams Street - 11th fl brdm

3:50 - 4:00 GOODIE BAGS & DISMISSAL



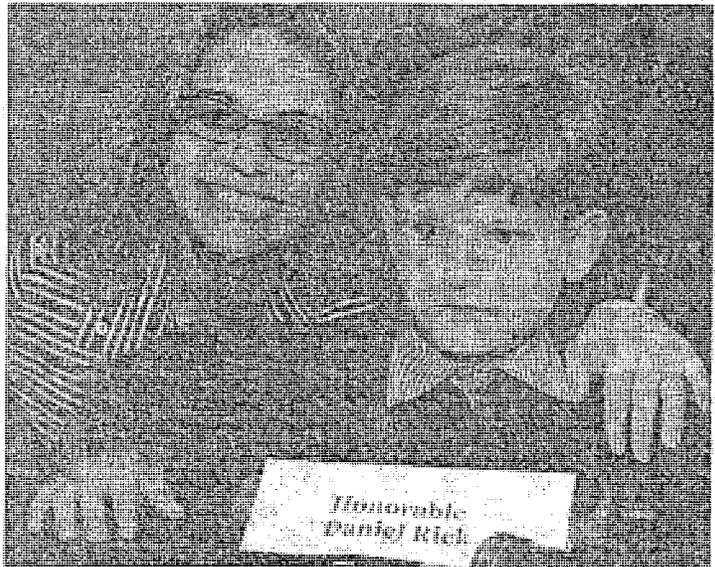
Kids take over Kings cour

Brooklyn Bulletin

LEGAL, JUDICIAL & COURTHOUSE NEWS

★ SEE BACK PAGE FOR FULL DAILY BULLETIN COVERAGE ★

May 16, 2012



The children of court employees got a rare opportunity last week to don a judge's robe, ascend to the judicial bench and wield a gavel. It was "Bring Your Child To Work Day" in Brooklyn Supreme Court. And in addition to playing judge for a day, the kids were treated to educational programs, mock trials, court-related games, snack time and something called a "dream calculator."



PHOTOS (from top left, clockwise): Daniel Rick and his mother; Chania Anbourg; law secretary Gigi Giannakouros and her kids Athena and Acastia Giannakouros and William Wallace (the grandchildren of the late Hon. Nicholas Coffinas); clerk Crissy with her daughter Danielle Salvador; Kings County Administrative Judge for Civil Matters Sylvia Hinds-Radix appearing via television; and Brooklyn Supreme Court Criminal Term Chief Clerk Daniel Alessandrino and senior management analyst Izetta Johnson, who both helped organize the day's program.

Eagle photos by Mario Belluomo.



*Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Term
Gender Fairness Committee*

Hon. Patricia Henry

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2011-2012

Name of the Committee:

Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee - Criminal Term

Name and Title of Chair:

Honorable Patricia E. Henry

Members:

List Attached

Dates of Meetings:

April 10, 2010

Average Attendance:

5

Do you have access to Video Conferencing? Have you used it? If so, how often?

Yes, We have not used it.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012:

CLE Seminar: Strangulation and the Law (Flyer attached)

Other Activities in the Past Year:

Co sponsored "Bring your child to work day, CLE Programs - over 50 attorneys from Family, Criminal and Supreme Court attended at each session (flyers attached)

What are your plans for next year?:

Seminars; Resource Fair - access to services (healthcare issues, parenting seminar); to continue co-sponsoring in events with Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term.

What have been the biggest challenges or obstacles you have met in the last year?:

Scheduling meetings - getting all members to clear their schedules for meetings.

Have had fruitful collaborations with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects?:

Yes, Kings County Family Court, and King County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term, Family Courts - Office of Attorney's for Children, Kings County District Attorney's Office, Criminal Defense Immigration Project - New York state Defenders Association.

Have you organized or helped to organize) any programs on human trafficking?

This year? In past years?:

No.

Please submit your annual report by Oct. 15, 2012 to:

Jill Goodman at Jgoodman@courts.state.ny.us

Members of Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Patricia E. Henry

Daniel Alessandrino - Chief Clerk

Nadia Bucknor - Assistant Court Analyst

Izetta Johnson - Senior Management Analyst

Joseph Madonia - Clinical Director, Brooklyn Treatment Court

Lisa Mangal - Analyst

Mackenzie Mendoza - Judges Secretary

Christopher Roeth - Sergeant

Mary Skinnon - Principle Court Clerk



The Kings County Judicial Committee on
Women in the Courts
and
The Appellate Division, Supreme Court, 2nd Judicial
Department,
William F. Mastro, Acting Presiding Justice
and
The Office of Attorneys for Children

Present

Immigration Consequences of
Family Court findings

Part 1 of a 2 Part Series

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2012

Time: 1:10 PM -2:30 PM

Place: Supreme Court
Ceremonial Courtroom, 2nd Floor (Room 2.95)
320 Jay Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201

Presenter: Joanne Macri
Director, Criminal Defense Immigration Project
New York State Defenders Association

CLE Credit: 1.5 Hours Professional Practice

The Appellate Division, Second Department 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. This course is appropriate for all attorneys.



The Kings County Judicial Committee on
Women in the Courts
and
The Appellate Division, Supreme Court, 2nd Judicial
Department,
William F. Mastro, Acting Presiding Justice
and
The Office of Attorneys for Children

Present

Immigration Consequences of
Family Court Findings

Part 2 of a 2 Part Series

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Time: 1:10 PM -2:30 PM

Place: Supreme Court
Ceremonial Courtroom, 2nd Floor (Room 2.95)
320 Jay Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201

Presenter: Joanne Macri
Director, Criminal Defense Immigration Project
New York State Defenders Association

CLE Credit: 1.5 Hours Professional Practice

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The Kings County
Judicial Committee

on

Women in the
Courts

and

The Appellate
Division,
Supreme Court,
2nd Judicial
Department,
Honorable
Randall Eng,
Presiding Justice

and

The Office of
Attorneys for
Children

Strangulation and the Law

DATE

Tuesday
October 23, 2012

TIME

1:10 PM -2:15 PM

PLACE

Supreme Court Ceremonial Courtroom
2nd Floor (Room 2.95)
320 Jay Street

PRESENTERS:

Wanda Lucibello
Chief, Special Victims Division
Kings County District Attorney's Office

Tracey Downing
Assistant District Attorney
Kings County District Attorney's Office

Kasia Kubiak, M.ED., M.A.
VAWA Program Coordinator
Kings County District Attorney's Office

CLE Credit: 1.5 Hours Professional Practice

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Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Genine D. Edwards
Kings Court Civil Court



KINGS COUNTY CIVIL COURT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

Hon. GENINE D. EDWARDS

CHAIR

RENEE WILLIAMS, ESQ.

SECRETARY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Julissa Collado

Lena Ferrera

Hon. Pamela Fisher

Anna Florek

Holly Haas

Turquoise Haskin

Hon. Inez Hoyos

Tyedanita Mclean

Margaret Papa

Holly Peck

Dejana Perrone

Robin Sheares

Hon. Wavny Toussaint

Hon. Carolyn Wade

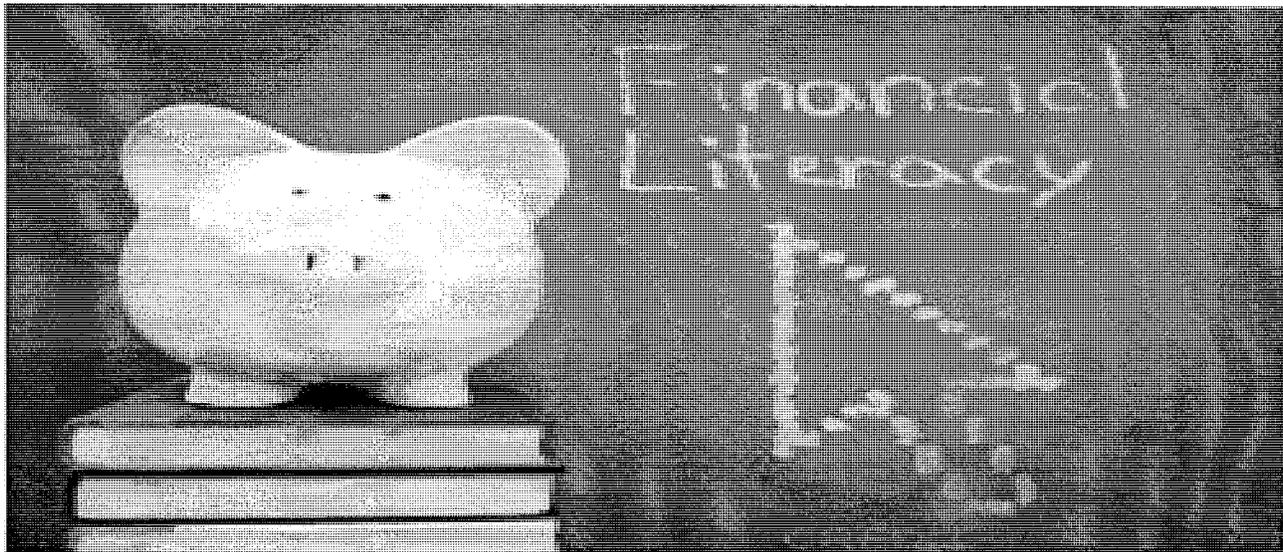
In Recognition of
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**The Kings County Civil Court
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

and the
BROOKLYN WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Present

A Workshop on the ABCs of



Trivia Questions/Door Prizes

Light Refreshments

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Kings County Civil Court

Jury Room – Room 305

141 Livingston Street | Brooklyn, NY 11201

All Are Welcome to Attend

Wednesday, March 28, 2012
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Kings County Civil Court
Jury Room – Room 305
141 Livingston Street | Brooklyn, NY 11201

All Are Welcome to Attend

In Recognition of

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

The

**KINGS COUNTY CIVIL COURT
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

Presents a

**SELF-DEFENSE
WORKSHOP**

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Jury Room - Room 305

141 Livingston Street | Brooklyn, NY 11201

This is a Hands-on Workshop

Door Prizes

Light Refreshments

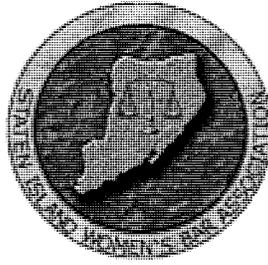
All Are Welcome to Attend

Presentation by Shihan Jackie Drayton, 3rd degree Black Belt, and a member of the
Dai-ichi Organization as well as the Kodokan Federation.

Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto
Supreme Court Justice

Hon. Karen A. Wolff
Richmond County Family court



The Staten Island Women's Bar Association

In Association With

The Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee

Invites You to Attend a Women's History Month Event:

Women Working in the Court System

A panel discussion regarding the historical service of women in parts of the court that relate to criminal matters: Supreme Court, Criminal Term; the Criminal Court; Family Court, et al. Women who serve as Judges, Court Officers, Court Clerks or Court Reporters in a Court Part handling criminal matters will discuss their personal experiences as women working in the court system.

Moderators:

Hon. Barbara Irolla Panepinto

Acting Justice, Supreme Court, Richmond County

Hon. Karen B. Wolff

Family Court of the City of New York, Richmond County

Panel Members:

Hon. Helene Sacco

Supervising Judge of the Family Court of the City of New York, Richmond County

Lt. Nancy Porter-Halley

Supreme Court, Richmond County

Barbara Martinez

Senior Court Clerk, Supreme Court, Richmond County

Rosemary Pfister

Senior Court Reporter, Supreme Court, Richmond County

On

Monday, April 4th, 2011

5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Richmond County Supreme Court Building

18 Richmond Terrace

Staten Island, NY 10301

Please Call (917) 603-4735 or (646) 221-9145 to reserve your space by April 1st, 2011

Admission is Free and Open to All; Light Refreshments Will be Served.

Staten Island Women's Bar Association

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

c/o Brooke Tiffany Skolnik

Sgarlato and Sgarlato PLLC

1440 Clove Road, Staten Island, NY 10301-4335

Phone: 718-273-7900 ♦ www.SIWBA.org ♦ info@SIWBA.org

Patricia Anne Taylor, President

Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee - co-chairs Judge Barbara Panepinto (SCt) and Judge Karen Wolff (FCt) - Program co-sponsored by the SI Gender Fairness Committee and the SI Womens Bar Association on April 4, 2011 (see flyer attached) - see below the summary of the program and comments by Patricia Anne Taylor, Esq. President of the SIWBA:

"Brilliant!" is the word that describes Monday night's Women in the Courts program sponsored by the Office of Court Administration's Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee and co-sponsored by the Staten Island Women's Bar Association. I'm sorry I couldn't write to thank everyone sooner but I was attending a conference all day Tuesday and catching up all day yesterday, so I just could not get to my computer.

We thank Judge Panepinto and Judge Wolff so much for giving us the opportunity to hear about the historical experience of women who carved out successful careers in various parts of the court system in the "early" years. Judge Helene Sacco was provocative and thoughtful regarding the path of her legal experiences in the court, from court attorney to her current position as Supervising Judge of the Family Court, Richmond County. Judge Karen Wolff and SIWBA members Rosemary Palladino, Yolanda Rudich and Anne Taylor also spoke about their service as court attorneys at various times in their careers. Barbara Martinez spoke about her work as a court clerk and it was lovely to see all her family members there to support her. Rosemary Pfister spoke about being a court reporter, and Judge Panepinto reminded us of the seminal importance of the Court reporter by stating, "Well, you know that if it wasn't in the court report, then it didn't happen!"

It was wonderful to learn about the interaction among the women serving in the various titles and to hear the experiences that they had in the various courts. I learned so much. We were blessed to have two students in attendance as well, a high school student and a law student.

Barbara Irolla Panepinto
Richmond County Supreme Court

*The Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts
Of Queens Supreme Court—Civil Term*

Hon. Marguerite A. Grays
Supreme Court

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2011-2012

Name of the Committee: The Judicial Committee on the Women in the Courts of the Supreme Court – Civil Term

Name and title of Chair: Hon. Marguerite A. Grays, J.S.C.

Members: See attached list

Dates of Meetings: October 25, 2011, October 26, 2011 and March 29, 2012

Average Attendance: 50

Do you have access to Video Conferencing? No

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2011:

On October 25, 2011, we co-sponsored a complementary lunchtime program at the Kew Gardens Courthouse. The program was a documentary screening entitled "Telling Amy's Story". The film, which was hosted by actress & advocate Mariska Hargitay and told by Detective Fishel, follows the time line of escalating violence leading to the domestic violence homicide of Amy Homan-McGee.

Activities for Women's History Month 2012:

On March 29, 2012, we co-sponsored a complimentary lunchtime program at the Kew Gardens Courthouse. The program was a screening entitled "Chisholm '72, Unbought and Unbossed". This film followed Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman ever to run for President of the United States. This provocative film demonstrated a woman's sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo.

Other Activities in the Past Year.

On October 26, 2011, the committee co-sponsored the "Pink & Teal" Seminar. Representatives from **SHARE** (Self-Help for Women with Breast or Ovarian Cancer) spoke to a group of Judges, attorneys and court personnel concerning breast and ovarian cancer issues including risks, early detection and treatment. Additionally, **SHARE** stressed the importance of being an empowered patient when confronted with these serious medical issues.

What are your plans for next year.

We look forward to presenting educational and informative programs during the upcoming year. We will continue our joint projects with the Queens County Women's Bar Association and the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association. Additionally, inasmuch as our film series have been very successful, we will continue our efforts to show documentary films during the lunch hour.

What have been the biggest challenges or obstacles you have met in the last year?

The biggest challenge this year has been the reduction of court operational hours.

Have [you] had fruitful collaboration with groups outside the courts, such as bar associations or domestic violence organizations, for programs and projects?

Yes. Each of our programs held this past year has been co-sponsored by the Queens County Women's Bar Association. Additionally, our Women's History Month program was co-sponsored by the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association.

**The Judicial Committee on the Women in the Courts of the Queens Supreme Court – Civil
Term**

2011-2012 Committee Members

**Hon. Marguerite Grays
Supreme Court Justice, Committee Chair**

Susan Beberfall, Esq.	Associate Court Attorney
Hon. Phyllis Orlikoff Flug	Supreme Court Justice
Delores Haynes	Secretary to Judge
Hon. Pam Jackman Brown	Supreme Court Justice
Cassandra Johnson	Senior Court Attorney
Denise Johnson	Principal Law Clerk to Judge
Joann Lopresto	Secretary to Judge
Nicole McGregor	Principal Law Clerk to Judge
Hon. Bernice Siegal	Supreme Court Justice
Denetra Thompson	Court Attorney
Kathleen S. Ward, Esq.	Principal Law Clerk to Judge

The Gender Fairness Committees for
Queens County Criminal Matters, Queens Supreme Civil Term &
Queens Civil Court, in conjunction with
the Queens County Women's Bar Association,
in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month
invite you to a documentary screening
of:

TELLING amy's story

Hosted by actress & advocate Mariska Hargitay, and told by Detective Fishel, *Telling Amy's Story* follows the timeline of escalating violence leading to the domestic violence homicide of Amy Homan-McGee.

Produced by Joe Myers, Penn State Public Broadcasting

Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 1:00 – 2:15 pm

Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Courtroom 190 (Ceremonial Courtroom, 1st Floor)

Bring your own lunch

Water & Snack will be provided



Pink & Teal

What do you really know about Breast and Ovarian Cancers?

Sponsored by

The Queens County Supreme Court

The Queens County Women's Bar

Association

The Judicial Committee on the Women in the Courts of the Queens Supreme Court -
Ovarian Team

When: Wednesday, October 26, 2011
12 - 1 pm. Bring your lunch!

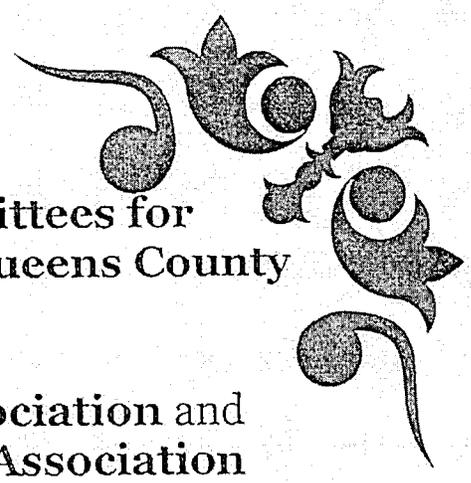
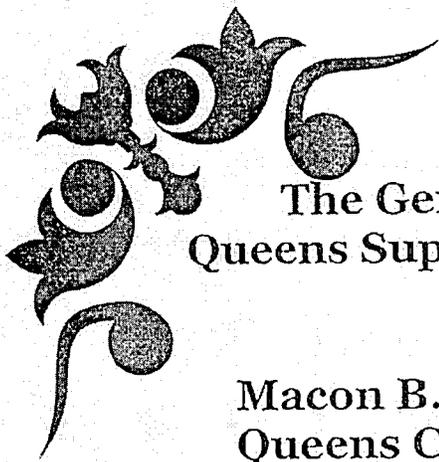
Where: Queens County Supreme Court
88-111 Sutphin Boulevard
Jamaica, NY 11435 5th flr boardroom

- Learn about breast and ovarian cancer issues and concerns from the unique perspective of survivors.
- Learn about risks, treatments, early detection, doctor-patient relationships and much more.
- Become an empowered patient.
- Ask questions either publicly or privately.
- Learn about SHARE, a survivor-led organization dedicated to providing emotional support and information about breast and ovarian cancers through its many free services.

Listen to
survivors
and get
educated!

SHARE

Self-help for Women with
Breast or Ovarian Cancer



The Gender Fairness Committees for
Queens Supreme Civil Term & Queens County
Criminal Matters,
in conjunction with
Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association and
Queens County Women's Bar Association

in recognition of Women's History Month
invite you to a screening
of

Chisholm '72
Unbought & Unbossed

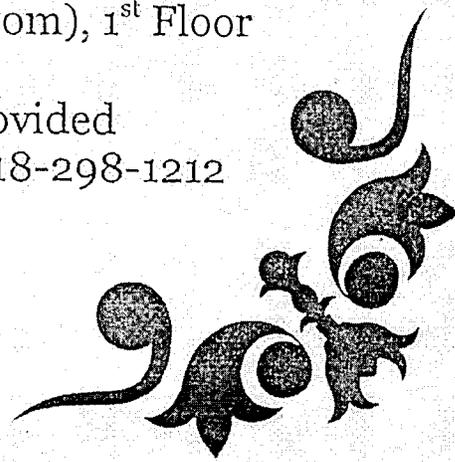
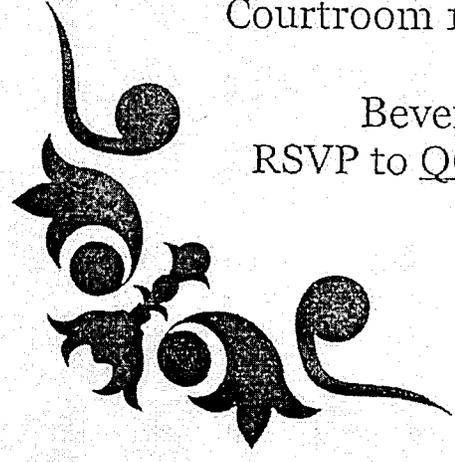
Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman
ever to run for President of the United States. This
provocative film demonstrates a woman's sheer will and
refusal to accept the status quo.

Thursday, March 29, 2012

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.

Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term
Courtroom 190 (Ceremonial Courtroom), 1st Floor

Beverage & Snacks will be provided
RSVP to QCWBA@yahoo.com or 718-298-1212



Queens Family Court
Women in the Courts/Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Margaret McGowan, Chair
Queens Family Court

**Queens Family Court
Women in the Courts/Gender Fairness Committee**

Presents

Identity Theft

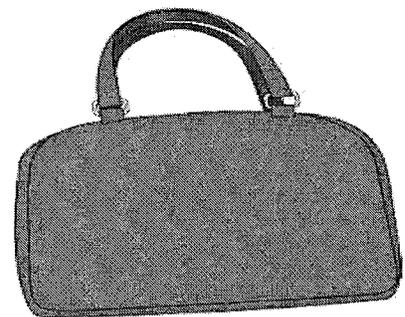
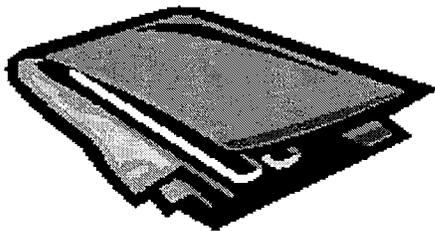
Featuring

Christina Hanophy
Deputy Chief, Economic and Environmental Crimes Bureau
Chief, Counter-Terrorism Unit

Tuesday, December 4, 2012
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Part 4, Room 290

Topics Include:

- ◆ **How Identity Theft Occurs**
- ◆ **Minimizing Your Risks**
- ◆ **What to do if you are a Victim**



Bring your lunch.
Light refreshments will be served.

Queens Family Court Wellness Day Event

Encouraging Healthy, Happy & Safe Families

Thursday October 18, 2012

**Information Fair
9:00AM-1:00PM**

**Domestic Violence Awareness
Month Presentation
1:00 PM**

**To be held in the lobby/atrium
of the courthouse**

Presented by:
NYS Unified Court System
Queens Family Court
Child Welfare Court Improvement Project
New York State Access to Justice

ALL Agency and Court Personnel are encouraged to view resources at the Information Fair, as well as attend the lunchtime program.

1:00PM - LUNCHTIME PRESENTATION:

Introductions:

Yaunda Harris-Strachan
Clerk of Court, Queens Family Court

Hon. Carol Stokinger
Supervising Judge, Queens Family Court

Acknowledgement:

Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson
Administrative Judge, NYC Family Court

DV Presentation and Discussion led by:

Changnary Pich
Senior Case Manager, Safe Horizon

Jacqueline Huneidi
Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP)

Planning Committee:

Sheila McCarthy (QFC), Emily Martinez (QFC), Helen Muskus (QFC), Jacqueline DeGise (QFC), Tamra Walker (ACS), Changnary Pich (Safe Horizon), Nancy Shea (Safe Horizon), Gwyneth Hesser (LAS), Tara Famularo (LAS), Mikos Theodore (LAS), JoAnn Lebright (LAS) and Barbara DeMayo (NYC Family Court)

