

# ANNUAL REPORTS

*Local Gender Bias and  
Gender Fairness Committees*

*2015-2016*

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*Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees*  
2015-2016

*Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees*

*Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Rachel L. Kretser, Chair and Patricia Beeler, Vice Chair**

*Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Polly A. Hoyer, Chair; Tatiana Coffinger, Vice Chair; Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq., Vice Chair; Eleanor DeCoursey, Esq., Vice Chair**

*Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts*

**Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair**

*Seventh Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Teresa Johnson, Chair**

*Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Jeannette Ogden, Chair**

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

**Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair and Hon. Allen Hochberg, Vice-Chair**

*Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee*

**Hon. Isabel Buse and Beverly Saldivias, Chairs**

*Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District,*

*Supreme Court Committee*

**Hon. Richard Lee Price, Chair and Hon. Josephine Bastone, Vice-Chair**

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

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

*Gender Fairness Committee, New York County Criminal Court*

**Hon. Melissa A. Crane and Janet M. Curley, Chairs**

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

**Hon. Gloria Dabiri, Chair**

*Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Robin Sheares, Chair**

*New York County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Tanya Kennedy (2015), Chair and Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, (2016)  
Co-Chair, Yacine Barry-Wun, Co-Chair, Nyiela Barret, Co-Chair**

*Queens County Criminal Court Matters Gender Fairness Committee*

*The Judicial Committee on the Women in the Courts of the Supreme Court  
Civil Term and Criminal Term*

**Hon. Marguerite A. Grays and Hon. Marcia Hirsch, Chairs**

*Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto and Hon. Karen A. Wolff, Chairs**

*Gender Fairness Committee, Bronx County Family Court*

**Hon. Carol Sherman, Chair**

*Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees*

## Courts Outside New York City

### **Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee**

#### **Hon. Rachel L. Kretser, Co-Chair**

Albany City Court, Criminal Part  
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#### **Patricia Beeler, Co-Chair**

Unified Court System (Ret.)  
Rensselaer County Family Court  
1504 Fifth Ave.  
Troy, NY 12180  
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### **Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee**

#### **Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair**

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#### **Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq., Vice Chair**

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#### **Eleanor DeCoursey, Esq., Vice Chair**

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### **Fifth Judicial District Committee**

#### **Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair**

Supreme Court Justice  
Onondaga County Courthouse  
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Syracuse, NY 13202  
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DKaralun@nycourts.gov

### **Sixth Judicial District Committee**

#### **Hon. Julie A. Campbell, Chair**

Acting Supreme Court Justice  
Cortland County Court  
46 Greenbush Street, STE 301  
Cortland, NY 13045  
607-218-3343  
JACampbe@nycourts.gov

### **Seventh Judicial District Committee**

#### **Hon. Teresa Johnson, Chair**

Rochester City Court  
Hall of Justice  
99 Exchange Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14614  
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TJohnson@nycourts.gov

### **Eighth Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee**

#### **Hon. Jeannette Ogden, Chair**

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eogden@nycourts.gov

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

#### **Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair**

Supreme Court Justice  
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### **Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts**

#### **Hon. Julianne Capetola, Chair**

Nassau County Family Court  
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JCapetola@nycourts.gov

### **Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee**

#### **Hon. Isabel Buse, Co-Chair**

Support Magistrate  
Suffolk County Family Court  
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#### **Beverly Saldivias, Co-Chair**

Associate Court Clerk  
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Matrimonial Dept.  
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## Courts Within New York City

### NYC FAMILY COURT COMMITTEES

**Bronx**  
**Hon. Carol Sherman**  
Bronx Family Court  
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Bronx, NY 10451  
718-618-2216  
CRSHERMA@nycourts.gov

**New York County**  
Vacant  
NY County Family Court  
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New York, NY 10016  
646-386-5118  
@nycourts.gov

**Kings County**  
Vacant  
Kings County Family Court  
330 Jay Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
@nycourts.gov

**Queens County**  
Vacant  
Queens Family Court  
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**Staten Island**  
**Hon. Karen A. Wolff**  
Richmond County Family Court  
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### BRONX COMMITTEES

**Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District, Supreme Court Committee**  
**Hon. Richard Lee Price, Chair**  
Supreme Court Justice  
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**Hon. Josephine Bastone, Vice-Chair**  
Court Referee  
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**Bronx County Civil Court Committee**  
**Hon. Elizabeth Taylor, Co-Chair**  
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**Hon. Eddie J. McShan, Co-Chair**  
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### NEW YORK COUNTY COMMITTEES

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**Janet M. Curley, Co-Chair**  
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**Kings County Gender Fairness Committee (Supreme Court, Civil Term)**  
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**Hon. Robin Sheares**  
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**Kings County Criminal Court Committee**  
**Hon. Dena Douglas**  
Criminal Court  
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### QUEENS COUNTY COMMITTEES

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**Hon. Marcia Hirsch, Co-Chair**  
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**Richmond County Committee**  
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*Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Rachel L. Kretser, Chair**

**Patricia Beeler, Vice Chair**

## **Third Judicial District Gender Fairness' Committee**

Chair(s): Hon. Rachel Kretser, Chair and Patricia Beeler UCS (Ret), Vice Chair

Members – *Attached*

Counties Served: *Albany, Columbia, Green, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *1/22, 5/7, 5/22, 6/22, 9/3 and several additional Conference Call meetings*

Average Attendance: 10 - 15

Do you use Videoconferencing? Yes

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? Yes

### **2015 Special Events**

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015: *A three-hour program on the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence was presented to kickoff Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Committee worked in coordination with the Capital District Women's Bar Association, The Legal Project, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, NYS Animal Protection Federation, Albany Law School, Albany County Bar Association, the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, Empire Justice Center, and New York State Bar Association. Speakers included: Albany County District Attorney David Soares; Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple; Albany Deputy Police Chief Robert Sears. Speakers and Panelists: Hon. Rachel Kretser, Chair of the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee; Gwen Wright, Executive Director of the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence; Christine Mott, Esq., Member and Past Chair, Animal Law Committee of NYC Bar Association; Member, NYS Council of the Humane Society; Libby Post, Executive Director of the NYS Animal Protection Federation; Brad Shear, Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. The program was also simulcast to New York City. About 200 people attended in Albany and by simulcast in NYC. You can find the program and program material online at <http://www.nysba.org/DVACmaterials>. Judge Kretser discussed the program in an Amici podcast with John Caher. The transcript is attached. Judge Kretser also published an article in the New York Law Journal on this topic.*

Activities for Women's History Month 2015: *Co-sponsored an event with the CDWBA Diversity and Gender Fairness Committee and the Legal Project. The program included a panel discussion on and the film screening of The Mask You Live In, the 2015 released film produced by the Miss Representation Project, which focuses on how we, as a society, can raise a healthier generation*

*of boys and young men. The film follows boys and young men as they struggle to stay true to themselves while negotiating America's narrow definition of masculinity. About 60 people attended.*

*Other Special Events or Activities in 2015: Presentation on gender related issues presented by Marc Levine, Chair of the Gay/Straight Alliance of the New York State Courts. The Alliance was founded by Marc Levine to promote openness in the court system for litigants, staff, and employees. He spoke to the committee about how he had personally been discriminated against by his bureau chief while working in the court system and how this motivated him to found the Alliance. The Gay/Straight Alliance promotes an atmosphere where both gays and straights come together to be supportive and inclusive. About 24 people attended.*

### **Special Event Marketing**

*How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Mail, Flyer, Op Ed pieces and local press both journalistic and audio/visual*

*Who and how many attended? Committee members, lawyers, DV advocates, animal shelter executive directors, public officials and law enforcement professionals as well as court system employees*

*Was there any press before or after? Yes, before, during, and after*

### **Future Plans**

*What are your plans for 2016?*

*Women's History Month: An Op Ed piece is being submitted to the Times Union by Chair Kretser, containing a tribute to Hon. Judith Kaye and honoring the women judicial pioneers in the Third Judicial District. It is likely other media sources will reprint this important piece.*

*What is your projected meeting schedule for 2016? 1/8/2016, 3/10/16, other dates TBD*

### **Concerns**

*What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016? Immigration and Human Trafficking*

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

*Do you see unmet training needs? Diversity, human trafficking issues, language barriers.*

## Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? *Human Trafficking Issues, Immigration Issues, Dilemmas in Legal Representation, Civil Legal Services and DV Representation and Improved Communication among the different attorneys and advocacy representatives; including what is and is not possible to communicate but how to proceed with effective representation by all parties.*

Would online viewing or videoconferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real-time on your desktop computer? *Possibly*

## Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? *Yes.*

*Capital District Women's Bar Association, Albany County Bar, NYS Bar Association, NY City Bar Association, The Legal Project, Unity House, Equinox, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence*

Is there anything else you would like to submit? *Yes, Times Union Op-Ed and Program Flyers are attached.*

**Third Judicial District  
Gender Fairness Committee**

**ALBANY COUNTY**

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**COLUMBIA COUNTY**

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**GREENE COUNTY**

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**ULSTER COUNTY**

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# *Domestic Violence Awareness Month Kickoff CLE:* **The Connection Between Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty**

Presented by Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee, in coordination with the Capital District Women's Bar Association, The Legal Project, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, NYS Animal Protection Federation, Albany Law School, Albany County Bar Association, the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, Empire Justice Center, and New York State Bar Association.

**NO FEE**

**Light refreshments will be served.**

**3.0 MCLE credits available: 2.0 Professional and 1.0 credits of Ethics**

*MCLE credits provided by Empire Justice Center*

**Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

New York State Bar Association Center  
1 Elk Street, Albany, NY

Among both animal rights advocates and those committed to protecting people from violence in the home, there is a growing awareness of the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence. Animal abuse is often a predator and an indicator crime for domestic violence, elder abuse and child maltreatment. One recent study found that 71% of pet guardians entering a domestic violence shelter told of an abuser who had harmed or killed a family pet, frequently as a method of exerting control—a cruel demonstration of “what could happen” to the person.

**The Connection Between Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty** will address how to recognize the continuum of criminal conduct against animals and people, and will identify the appropriate organizational resources.

**Who should attend:**

This program will be geared to attorneys, both from a defense and a prosecutorial perspective, but will also be broadly designed to be useful to law students, law enforcement personnel, and those in the domestic violence and animal abuse communities.

**Speakers include:**

- **Jed Painter**, Counsel to the Nassau District Attorney
- **Stacy Wolf, Esq.**, Senior Vice President, Anti-Cruelty Group, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- **Gwen Wright**, Executive Director of NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

**Additional panelists include:**

- **Christine Mott, Esq.**, Member and Past Chair, Animal Law Committee of the NYC Bar Association; Member, NYS Council of the Humane Society of the US
- **Libby Post**, Executive Director of NYS Animal Protection Federation
- **Brad Shear**, Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society

**Seminar will be moderated by the Honorable Rachel Kretser, Chair of the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee.**

**Registration is available through the Albany County Bar Association:**

[www.albanycountybar.com/DVandAnimalCrueltyCLE](http://www.albanycountybar.com/DVandAnimalCrueltyCLE) If you have questions regarding the program content, please contact Lisa Frisch, Executive Director, The Legal Project, by email at: [lfrisch@legalproject.org](mailto:lfrisch@legalproject.org).

*Domestic violence often foreshadowed  
in attacks against defenseless animals*

# Abuse begins with pets

By Rachel L. Kretser

**A** growing body of evidence shows an undeniable link between animal cruelty and domestic abuse; yet our laws and our society have so far failed to keep pace and failed to adequately address what we now know is a gateway crime.

We know that animal abusers are five times more likely than others to harm humans. We know that 69 percent of abused women delayed leaving the home due to fear of leaving the pet behind. We know that half of domestic violence victims who remain in violent households do so out of fear for their pets. We know that perpetrators of domestic violence frequently harm or threaten to harm a pet to demonstrate their power and control, to isolate the victim, to perpetuate an environment of fear and intimidation, to prevent the victim from leaving or coerce her to return, and to punish the victim for leaving or showing any sign of independence.

Caseworkers in domestic violence shelters report incidents of emotional blackmail such as, "He killed the ferret just to scare us." "He beheaded the parakeet because she was singing." "Because I was getting home late, he put my cat in the microwave." "I went back because he mailed me the ears of my dog that he had cut off."

As an Albany City Court judge handling criminal matters, I encounter such cases from time to time (although my colleague, Judge William A. Carter, is the Domestic Violence Court judge) and have grown increasingly concerned over the connection between animal cruelty and domestic abuse. In New York state, animal cruelty is usually prosecuted as a misdemeanor offense, normally punishable by no more than a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

At a recent Domestic Violence Awareness Month kick-off event sponsored by the Third

Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee, which I am privileged to chair, a diverse group of experts explored the animal cruelty and domestic violence connection and shared their insights and experiences (see "Domestic, Animal Abusers Linked," Times Union, Sept. 30). Nearly 200 judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, caseworkers and law enforcement officers attended the program, gaining invaluable insight on how to secure justice for the two- and four-legged victims of abuse. The Gender Fairness Committee was pleased to partner with the Governor's Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the New York State Bar Association, Albany County Bar and Women's Bar Associations, the Legal Project, Albany Law School and other stakeholders in presenting this valuable seminar. Hopefully it will be a catalyst, encouraging more effective court-community responses.

First, we need increased reporting and cross-reporting of incidents of animal cruelty so that authorities in various disciplines — law enforcement, social service, and more — are aware of a perpetrator's penchant for animal abuse. If, for example, a caseworker handling domestic violence learns of animal abuse, that abuse should be reported separately and prosecuted separately. Likewise, if a caseworker in the animal community learns of domestic abuse, that incident should be reported immediately as well. Domestic

violence thrives on silence.

Second, we need to step up our efforts to ensure the protection of companion animals, so that a victim need not be in a position of compromising their own safety to ensure the safety of a beloved pet. The Mohawk Hudson Humane Society has a "foster" program it established in conjunction with local domestic violence shelters. This program is a great start as it enables victims to leave their abuser, knowing that their pets will be safe and cared for until they find new housing.

And finally, in appropriate cases, we in the judiciary need to issue orders protecting pets or removing pets from abusive owners. Legislation authorizing such orders of protection was passed several years ago.

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► Rachel L. Kretser is an Albany City Court judge.



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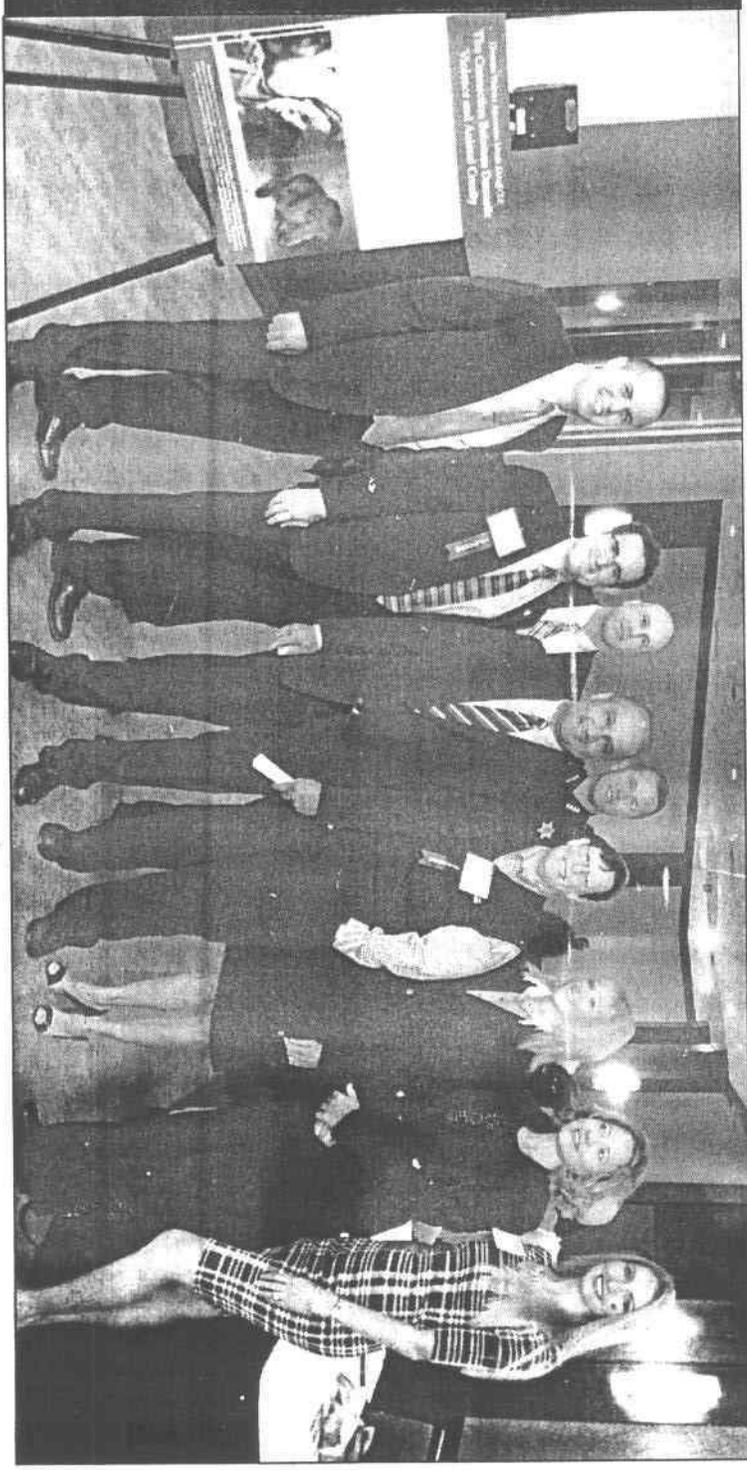
unjust deportation, escape from childhood or domestic abuse, freedom from modern day slavery.

Your assistance provides the resources for The Foundation to help provide legal representation in these life-changing circumstances. Your gift matters:

- To the elderly couple who are losing their home
- To the woman who has HIV, also diagnosed with cancer, and is being evicted because she cannot keep up with her medical bills and rent

**Collaborative effort**—The State Bar joined with several other organizations and the third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee to present a CLE on the connection between domestic violence and animal cruelty on September 30 in Albany. Speakers included, left to right, Jed L. Painter, counsel to Nassau District Attorney; Brad Shear, Mohawk-Hudson Humane Society; Deputy Chief Robert Sears, Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares; Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple; Libby Post, NYS Animal Protection Federation; Hon. Rachel Kreiser, Gender Fitness Committee chair; Alicia Borns, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence; and Christine Mott, New York City Bar, NYS Council of the Humane Society of the US.

*[Photo by Dannielle Hillel]*



\$100, give \$1,000—any amount will make a difference in the grant program! The more donations received, the more profound the impact on the lives of those in need of legal assistance.

The Foundation's Board of Directors looks forward to working with you in a joint effort to substantially increase Foundation funding to meet our profession's responsibility to assist those in need of legal assistance.

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. ♦

### **To honor a loved one or colleague or to recognize a celebration**

There always is an occasion to do "something special" to celebrate a loved one or colleague. Making a contribution to The Foundation in honor of a friend, colleague or loved one on a special occasion is a fitting way to acknowledge the moment and to support law-related charitable and educational programs. The honoree will receive an acknowledge-

ment will not be specified) and an acknowledgement will be included in the Annual Report. All lawyers in whose name contributions are made will be listed in a Foundation Memorial Book maintained at the State Bar Center in Albany.

These are some of the several ways you can make a difference across New York state through The Foundation. Call 518-487-5650 or visit [www.tnybf.org](http://www.tnybf.org) for more information. ♦

CRIME PREVENTION



Judge Rachel Kretser, committee chair, right, speaks during an event to highlight the link between animal cruelty and domestic abuse on Wednesday at the Hilton in Albany. On the panel, from left, are Alicia Borns, Brad Shear, Libby Post, Christine Mott and Jed Painter.

Cindy Schultz / Times Union

# Pet abuse is danger sign

*Reporting animal cruelty can deter domestic violence*

By Robert Gavin

Albany

The same people who abuse their girlfriends and boyfriends often abuse pets — and reporting that cruelty can safeguard both humans and animals from the attackers, experts said Wednesday.

“You got to take a pause in these cases to dig a little deeper to figure out if somebody with psychotic issues in one regard might have psychotic issues in another regard,” Jed Painter, an assistant district attorney from Nassau County and one of the state’s leading authorities on the prosecution of animal crimes. “You don’t want to be the one to miss that warning sign.”

Painter was among the experts speaking at the event, titled “The Connec-

tion Between Domestic Violence And Animal Cruelty,” which drew local prosecutors, police and City Court Judge Rachel Kretser, who emceed the event as chair of the 3rd Judicial District’s Gender Fairness Committee.

Painter said he believes animal cruelty laws are still “woefully enforced” but sees improvement.

Christine Mott, past president of the New York City Bar Association’s Animal Law Committee, noted that animal cruelty alone can serve as the basis for a domestic violence petition and order of protection — and that the animals themselves can be protected by such orders. If abusers violate an order of protection involving pets, they face the same consequences as with any other order of protection, according to literature distributed at the event.

Animal cruelty can be made legally admissible as a “prior bad act” in do-

mestic violence cases, the literature said.

“It is a proven link that individuals that are hurting your animals, hurting your pets, beheading your pets, it’s only going to lead to worse things, physical things, with your family,” Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple said, calling domestic violence and animal cruelty “two of the more under-reported crimes.”

Other speakers included District Attorney David Soares; Albany Police Deputy Chief Robert Sears; Alicia Borns, director of the Bureau of Family and Victim Resources for the state Office of Prevention of Domestic Violence; Brad Shear, director of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society and Libby Post, executive director of the New York State Animal Protection Federation.

► [rgavin@timesunion.com](mailto:rgavin@timesunion.com) = 518-434-2403 = @RobertGavinTU

**OP ED: September/October 2015 By Chair Kretser:**

A growing body of evidence shows an undeniable link between animal cruelty and domestic abuse; yet our laws and our society have so far failed to keep pace and failed to adequately address what we now know is a gateway crime.

We know that animal abusers are five times more likely than others to harm humans. We know that 69 percent of abused women delayed leaving the home due to fear of leaving the pet behind. We know that half of domestic violence victims who remain in violent households do so out of fear for their pets. We know that perpetrators of domestic violence frequently harm or threaten to harm a pet to demonstrate their power and control, to isolate the victim, to perpetuate an environment of fear and intimidation, to prevent the victim from leaving or coerce her to return, and to punish the victim for leaving or showing any sign of independence.

Caseworkers in domestic violence shelters report incidents of emotional blackmail such as, “He killed the ferret just to scare us.” “He beheaded the parakeet because she was singing.” “Because I was getting home late, he put my cat in the microwave.” “I went back because he mailed me the ears of my dog that he had cut off.”

As an Albany City Court judge handling criminal matters, I encounter such cases from time to time (although my colleague, Judge William A. Carter, is the Domestic Violence Court Judge) and have grown increasingly concerned over the connection between animal cruelty and domestic abuse. In New York State, animal cruelty is usually prosecuted as a misdemeanor offense, normally punishable by no more than a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

At a recent Domestic Violence Awareness Month kick-off event sponsored by the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee, which I am privileged to chair, a diverse group of experts explored the animal cruelty/domestic violence connection and shared their insights and experiences (see “Domestic, Animal Abusers Linked,” Times Union, Sept. 30). Nearly 200 judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, caseworkers and law enforcement officers attended the program, gaining invaluable insight on how to secure justice for the two and four-legged victims of abuse. The Gender Fairness Committee was pleased to partner with the Governor’s Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the N. Y. S. Bar, Albany County Bar and Women’s Bar Associations, the Legal Project, Albany Law School, and other stakeholders, in presenting this valuable seminar. Hopefully it will be a catalyst, encouraging more effective court-community responses.

First, we need increased reporting and cross-reporting of incidents of animal cruelty so that authorities in various disciplines — law enforcement, social service, etc. — are aware of a perpetrator’s penchant for animal abuse. If, for example, a caseworker handling domestic violence learns of animal abuse, that abuse should be reported separately and prosecuted separately. Likewise, if a caseworker in the animal community learns of domestic abuse, that incident should be reported immediately as well. Domestic violence thrives on silence.

Second, we need to step up our efforts to ensure the protection of companion animals, so that a victim need not be in a position of compromising their own safety to ensure the safety of a beloved pet. The Mohawk Hudson Humane Society has a “foster” program it established in conjunction with local domestic violence shelters. This program is a great start as it enables victims to leave their abuser, knowing that their pets will be safe and cared for until they find new housing.

And finally, in appropriate cases, we in the Judiciary need to issue orders protecting pets and/or removing pets from abusive owners. Legislation authorizing such orders of protection was passed several years ago.

Each October we recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month. But DV awareness is not a one-month-a-year concern; it’s a 24/7 concern. Only by shining a bright light on the issues that surround this crime, and exploring its causes and early warning signs (such as animal cruelty)—and doing so every day—can we hope to bring relief and sanctuary to the millions of victims.

Hon. Rachel L. Kretser

Albany, N.Y.

## Transcript of Amici Podcast hosted by John Caher

John Caher: Welcome to Amici, news and insight for the New York Judiciary and Unified Court System. Our guest today is the Honorable Rachel Kretser, a judge of the Albany City Criminal Court and chair of the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee. The Committee, in coordination with the Capital District Women's Bar Association's Legal Project, the New York State Bar Association, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the New York State Animal Protection Federation, as well as Albany Law School, the Albany County Bar Association and the Mayor's Alliance for New York City's Animals, is presenting a program this fall on the connection between domestic violence and animal cruelty. Judge, thank you for speaking with us today.

Judge Kretser: My pleasure.

John Caher: First, could you just tell us what the September 30th program is all about?

Judge Kretser: It's about the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence. There are numerous studies showing a connection. The studies include a 2012 study finding that 69 percent of abused women delayed leaving the home due to fear of leaving their pet behind, a 2007 study showing batterers who abuse their pets are more controlling and more dangerous. Seventy one percent of women in DV shelters told of an abuser who had harmed or killed a family pet.

Animal abuse is also often a gateway crime. It's an indicator of future violence towards people, particularly those who are vulnerable, like children, women and the elderly. There are so many examples. Some of the most horrific, of course, are the Jeffrey Dahmers, the serial killers. There are so many who started by abusing animals. We even have a local sadistic killer who pops to mind. Frederick Hunt in 1985 committed a brutal murder of a 13-year-old child.

John Caher: I remember it well.

Judge Kretser: Yes. I don't know if I want to go into the details of that horrible killing, but the child suffered terribly and it turned out that Hunt had a prior history of abusing cats. In fact, according to news reports, he was very proud of that and called himself the "King of the Cats" for torturing and killing cats.

John Caher: Why do batterers abuse animals?

Judge Kretser: The New York State Office of the Prevention of Domestic Violence, which is a co-sponsor of our program, lists on its website a number of reasons—to demonstrate power and control over the family, to isolate the victim and the children, to enforce submission, to perpetuate an environment of fear, to prevent the victim from leaving or to coerce her to return, to punish the victim for leaving or showing any independence.

John Caher: It sounds like the batterer uses a pet as leverage, almost like a hostage.

Judge Kretser: Yes. We heard of comments from women living in domestic violence shelters such as, “He killed the ferret just to scare us.” “He beheaded the parakeet because she was singing.” “It amused him to torture the cats.” “Because I was getting home late, he put my cat in the microwave.” “I went back because he mailed me the ears of my dog that he had cut off.” Those are some of the things that caseworkers in domestic violence shelters have reported.

John Caher: But until and unless it escalates into domestic violence, how much can be done? What can be done about someone who is beheading the parakeet or microwaving the cat?

Judge Kretser: First of all, we need increased reporting. That is a serious problem, lack of reporting. The first preventative measure also would be to take these cases more seriously once they are reported. When animal abuse is ignored or minimized, it often escalates to humans. We also should have greater cross training among community agencies. Multidisciplinary teams are much more effective than isolated people trying to deal with this. Cross reporting—there should be more protocols for reporting abuse if, for example, a caseworker handling domestic violence learns of animal abuse. That should be reported separately and can be separately prosecuted. Likewise, if a caseworker in the animal community learns of other forms of abuse, those should be reported immediately.

John Caher: What sort of preventative measures can a judge take if all the judge has before her is an animal cruelty, which may well escalate into domestic abuse, but hasn't yet? Are there social programs? Are there referrals? Is there something you can do?

Judge Kretser: Yes. In terms of social programs, of course there are social programs and anger management programs and so forth. But the penalty is only jail for up to year or a fine of \$1,000. In other words, when you're dealing

primarily with misdemeanor penalties, it's difficult to get people into treatment. We do sometimes try that, though.

My cases often go to jury trial. Because I take these cases very seriously, I typically do not accept plea offers in an animal abuse case that don't involve some jail time. I think that the district attorney's office takes them pretty seriously also and I rarely see plea offers that don't involve some jail time.

I think that defense attorneys sometimes make the mistake of thinking that juries won't take these cases seriously. But the juries I have had get it. They understand. In fact, in voir dire, we find that almost all of them have a pet now or have owned a pet at some point in their lives and that the pet is part of their family. So they get it and they have no problem finding defendants guilty in these cases. Again, the problem is the lack of reporting. We need greater reporting.

John Caher: Off hand, I don't recall if Fred Hunt's abuse of animals had been reported. Again, we're talking a long time ago. I think that was maybe in the late eighties or early nineties, and I think we've learned a lot since then. But I don't know that at the time the red flags that should have been raised would have been raised.

Judge Kretser: Yes, and I think we're learning every day. One of the reasons we're doing this program, of course, is to raise public awareness and to raise awareness among the law enforcement agencies.

John Caher: How long and when did you become aware of it?

Judge Kretser: My interest in domestic violence goes way back. In fact, I'm a founding member of the Legal Project. The Domestic Violence Legal Project was founded by the Women's Bar the year that I was President of the State Women's Bar. Through that involvement with domestic violence issues, I became aware of the connection. I've also always been interested in issues surrounding animals. But the domestic violence connection goes way back for me. Of course, I do see it occasionally in my court.

Now, I'm not the domestic violence judge, if you will. We have a separate DV part in the Albany City Criminal Court and the judge for that part is Judge William Carter. But Judge Carter has made me aware of cases involving domestic violence and animal abuse, one of which, in fact, he's going to do a sentencing at the end of this month of a person who plead to both domestic violence and animal abuse. The animal abuse part involved hitting a little dog, a tiny dog, several times and raising it up in

the air over head and throwing it to the ground. The defendant will be doing eight months in jail for that. Now, one might ask, why not longer? The maximum penalty is \$1,000 dollars or a year in jail, for most animal abuse cases. There is also a felony provision, but felony level animal abuse is more difficult to prove. If convicted of the felony, a defendant can be sentenced to five years.

John Caher: Mm-hmm. Even having them in custody for eight months, at least there's an opportunity there to perhaps deal with some of the anger management issues and maybe flush it out a little bit and maybe prevent future problems.

Judge Kretser: Exactly.

John Caher: Back to the September 30th program, where will that be held?

Judge Kretser: That will be held at the New York State Bar Center, One Elk Street in Albany. It's very conveniently located in downtown Albany right next to the courthouses and it accommodates up to 200 people. So far we have thirty five registered and it's still seven weeks away. I think that number will probably triple.

John Caher: I'm sure it will. How do people sign up? Is there a fee?

Judge Kretser: No fee. I'm very pleased to say that there is no fee and I should say that that is due to the kindness of our co-sponsors—the State Bar, the Albany County Bar, the Legal Project have all donated their services, their space, refreshments, all to allow us to offer this program free of charge. In addition to attorneys, this program is open to domestic violence caseworkers, animal abuse case workers, law enforcement personnel. If we were to charge money, that would be a significant barrier for some of the people we're hoping to attract.

John Caher: I'm sure it would. What will go on at the event? Who are the speakers?

Judge Kretser: We have a wonderful panel. I will be moderating and the panel includes Gwen Wright, the Executive Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence; Stacy Wolf, Senior Vice President for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the ASPCA; Jed Painter is council to the Nassau District Attorney. He was recommended as leading authority on this subject by the District Attorney's Association, and Christine Mott, Chair of the Animal Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association and a Member of the State Council of the Humane Society. Libby Post, our own local person, is

Executive Director of the New York State Animal Protection Federation. And last but definitely not least is Brad Shear, the Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

Incidentally, the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society has set up a program in conjunction with the local DV shelters to shelter pets. That enables victims to leave their abusers, knowing that their pets will be cared for until they can find new housing that will allow them to take their pets back. They do that through fostering of the pets. Brad Shear has been very helpful in that regard.

John Caher: That's quite a lineup. If someone needs more information or is interested in attending, how do they sign up?

Judge Kretser: The Albany County Bar Association has graciously agreed to take reservations for this program, which by the way offers three continuing legal education credits, one of which is ethics. Ethics credits are very popular among the State Bar.

The Albany County Bar will take registrations either at their phone number of 518-445-7691 or on their website. If you want additional information, you can also check the Albany County Bar website, the New York State Bar website, the Capital District Women's Bar websites—all contain information about this program. You can also call Lisa Frisch, Executive Director of The Legal Project. That's another person who has been just fabulous in helping to put this program together. She's at [lfrisch@legalproject.org](mailto:lfrisch@legalproject.org) and you can even call me. My number at the courts is 518-453-5520. Please don't call me to register, just call if you have any questions.

John Caher: Got it. Got it. Okay. Thanks so much for your time, Judge. This is fascinating program.

Judge Kretser: Thank you so much, John. Always a pleasure and I appreciate very much the opportunity to get the word out.

John Caher: Thank you for listening to this edition of Amici. If you have a suggestion for a topic on Amici, call John Caher, 518-453-8669 or send him a note at [Jcaher@nycourts.gov](mailto:Jcaher@nycourts.gov). In the meantime, stay tuned.

*Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts*

**Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair**

**Tatiana Coffinger, Vice-Chair**

**Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq. Vice-Chair**

**Eleanor DeCoursey, Esq., Vice-Chair**

## **Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts**

Chair: *Hon. Polly A. Hoyer, Fulton County Acting Supreme Court Justice*

Members: *Tatiana Coffinger, Court Attorney, Warren County; Elena Jaffe Tastensen, Private Attorney, Saratoga County; Eleanor DeCoursey, Private Attorney, Schenectady County*

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

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *No in person meetings; communication via email due to distance (30+ miles apart)*

Average Attendance: *NA*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *Yes*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *Our district, traditionally underserved with women, has seen a significant increase in women judges, with 4 being elected in 2015 to Supreme, County/ Surrogate, Family and City Courts.*

### **2015 Special Events**

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

- *DV Awareness Walk & Wear Purple, October 22, 2015, Johnstown, NY [see attached];*
- *"Girls' Night Out, Girlfriends Helping Girlfriends", Funds & Awareness Raiser for Wellspring (DV and Rape Crisis provider), October 29, 2015, Saratoga Springs, NY.*

Activities for Women's History Month:

*"Women's Symposium: Our History is our Strength", sponsored by ECS Women's Consortium; Johnstown, NY, March 21, 2015 [see attached];*

Essay Contest: *Gloversville-Johnstown branch of AAUW scholarship, April, 2015: Suggested topic: "Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Why do you feel the Work She Did is Important for Women, and How Might it Help You Personally?", open to female high school students pursuing college [see attached news article].*

#### Other Special Events or Activities in 2015:

- *Fulton County: The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium sponsored an event for each month in 2015 to commemorate the 200th birthday of Mrs. Stanton [see attached list of events and news articles].*
- *"Finding Peace Amid the Chaos", luncheon & Keynote Speaker, Tanya Brown (sister of Nicole Brown-Simpson), April 20, 2015, Johnstown, NY [in connection with National Crime Victim Awareness Week, see attached flyer].*
- *Saratoga County: Adirondack Women's Bar Assn: "Go Red for Women", February 12, 2015.*
- *September 26, 2015: 5th Annual Purple Pooch Parade, to bring attention to the role of pets in DV situations and to highlight DVRC's Safe Pets Partnership.*
- *November 17, 2015: Dinner to recognize 5 year history of the "Legal Aid Clinic to Aid Survivors of Domestic Violence", and the attorney volunteers who participated (Adirondack Women's Bars Assn).*

#### **Special Event Marketing**

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

Who and how many attended? *Varied*

Was there any press before or after? *Yes, attached.*

#### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016?

*Domestic Violence Awareness Month program*

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2016? *Now that the court system has Skype for Business, we are hoping that it will make communications easier, as we are spread out in the largest judicial district (geographically). One of our co-chairs has recently resigned and we are waiting for our Administrative Judge to appoint someone new.*

#### **Concerns**

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2015?

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Child Care Centers and supervised visitation.*

Do you see unmet training needs? *No*

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

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

Would online viewing or video conferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real time on your desktop computer? *Yes*

### **Collaboration**

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

*Bar Associations, Domestic Violence Organizations, and Sexual Assault Organizations*

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS WALK & NATIONAL WEAR PURPLE DAY

**DATE: THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2015**

**TIME 3:30PM**

*October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Please join the Fulton County Domestic Violence Task Force in raising awareness by participating in the National Wear Purple Day as well as our annual Domestic Violence Walk.*

*We will be meeting at 3:30pm by our "Tree of Hope" in front of the Fulton County Office Building where we will have a brief ceremony & some pictures by the local media & proceed on our walk down Main street, left onto the arterial and down Briggs Street to HFM Services (corner of Briggs & Jansen Ave) where we will gather for some refreshments before concluding the event.*



In 1848, the Declaration of Sentiments was presented at Seneca Falls, New York. Its author, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, modeled it after the Declaration of Independence to throw into sharp relief the failure of a nation founded on the principles of democracy and equality to live up to its ideals, and to challenge that nation to give women all the rights and responsibilities they were entitled to.

More than 160 years have passed since that first Women's Rights Convention. Thanks to the dreams, leadership, persistence, and hard work of women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, we have had far more opportunities in all areas of our lives than our mothers and grandmothers. But, Stanton's wish for our "immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to [us] as citizens of these United States" has not been fully realized.

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium was first held nine years ago in Johnstown to continue the work of that city's most famous daughter. An outcome of the 2006 Symposium was the creation of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium. Presently the members are the Amsterdam-Johnstown-Gloversville branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Soroptomist International of Fulton County, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association, the Women Democrats, the Women's Republican Club of Fulton County, Girl Scouts of Northeastern NY, the Eclectic Society, Women Faculty of Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FMCC), and the General Federation of Women's Clubs Century Club.

Today, the Consortium welcomes you to the fifth Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium to meet for a day of workshops, talks, and socializing. By sharing our knowledge and experiences as well as developing social and professional networks, we continue along the path Stanton and others made possible for us to walk. We're thrilled you can join us. As Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and other have shown, wonderful things happen when women get together.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's  
Consortium  
PO Box 251  
Johnstown, NY 12095

Website: [www.ecswc.org](http://www.ecswc.org)  
Phone: 518-762-7638  
E-mail: [Lizdeclares@gmail.com](mailto:Lizdeclares@gmail.com)



Elizabeth Cady Stanton WOMAN'S CONSORTIUM  
*Educating women to make a difference*

# Women's Symposium

## Major Sponsors:

**Berkshire Bank**

**St Mary's Hospital  
Nathan Littauer Hospital**

**NBT Bank**

**March 21, 2015**

**8:30 am - 3:30 pm**

**HFM BOCES**

**2755 State Hwy 67  
Johnstown, NY**

# Local

## GOING DOWN IN HERSTORY

Sunday,  
March 22, 2015



Ielinda Grube, adjunct history lecturer at Cayuga Community College, speaks as Elizabeth Cady Stanton during her presentation titled Johnstown's Daughter at the fourth Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium on at Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Board of Cooperative Educational Services own. Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium Co-Chairwoman Helen Martin, introduces lunchtime keynote speaker Coline Jenkins, the at-granddaughter of Stanton, left, and her son, Eric Jenkins-Sahlin, during the event.

Photos by Kerry Minor  
The Leader-Herald



## Women's symposium celebrates life, work of Elizabeth Cady Stanton

By KERRY MINOR  
The Leader-Herald

JOHNSTOWN — During her keynote speech, Elizabeth Cady Stanton's great-great granddaughter, Coline Jenkins, told the attendees gathered Saturday at the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium that, "If you're not getting your life, your liberty and your pursuit of happiness, it's incumbent on you to do something about it."

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium's fourth symposium returned to the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Board of Cooperative Educational Services with the theme "HerStory 2015: Our History is Our Strength." The event is normally held every two years, but went three years apart this time to ensure it could be held during a year-long celebration of Stanton in honor of the 200th anniversary of her birth Nov. 12.

This year's event featured a variety of presenters and workshops with topics ranging from history to medicine to creative arts.

Jenkins and her son, Eric Jenkins-Sahlin, served as the lunchtime presenter during this year's event. She spoke about her radical ancestor, who was born and raised in Johnstown, learned about law in the city and fought for women's rights in Seneca Falls.

Jenkins spoke about a variety of current national campaigns as well, including the effort to get a woman such as Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton or Eleanor Roosevelt on the \$20 bill. She also spoke about the effort to have statues of actual women placed in Central Park, since the only women currently depicted in statues in the park are fictional characters. This leaves room for someone real such as Susan B.

Anthony or Stanton to be represented, Jenkins said.

ECSWC Co-Chairwoman Helen Martin said people were pouring through the doors when they opened at 8:30 a.m. and were registering right up until Friday night.

"It's turning out to be a great day," Martin said.

Martin said the event attracted a few younger women this year, including high school and college students. The consortium made a push for younger women this year, offering reduced prices for students.

Martin said she hopes to get even more young women for the fifth event.

Event Planning Committee member Liz Russo said she was pleased with the attendance.

Russo said members of the American Association of University Women came from outside the area, including Schenectady and Poughkeepsie, to attend the event.

Russo said there was an effort to get a variety of presenters for the three separate sessions during the event. She said they wanted to offer something for women who were interested in the history and something for people who may have already been aware of it.

The next event in the ongoing series of celebrations for Stanton's birthday is the American Association of University Women's "Feminist Stories from Women's Liberation" film viewing and discussion with filmmaker Jennifer Lee at Fulton-Montgomery Community College on April 11 at 6 p.m.

For more information about the consortium, which is supported by nine local women's groups, go to [www.ecswc.org](http://www.ecswc.org).

## Essay contest to focus on Stanton

Since Johnstown will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's birth this year, the suggested essay topic for the 2015 American Association of University Women Dorothy Wemple Literary Award is "Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Why Do You Feel The Work She Did Is Important For Women, and How Might It Help You Personally?"

The research or autobiographical essay should be 300 to 500 words. Entries will be judged on literary form, research and clarity of thought, a news release said. Entries should be submitted to high school guidance depart-

ments, which along with area English teachers have received information regarding the award, the release said. To ensure objective judging, neither the name nor the school should appear on or be included in the essay. A separate sheet with the student's name and school, the college they plan to attend, and the counselor's signature should be submitted with the entry, the release said. The deadline for the AAUW scholarship application is April 23.

This year, the award has been increased to \$500. The award is given annually by the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of

the AAUW in memory of Dorothy Anderson Wemple, who was a Knox Junior High School teacher and a member of AAUW for more than 50 years.

The scholarship is available to women high school seniors in Fulton, Montgomery and Hamilton counties who will be pursuing a two- or four-year college degree upon graduation.

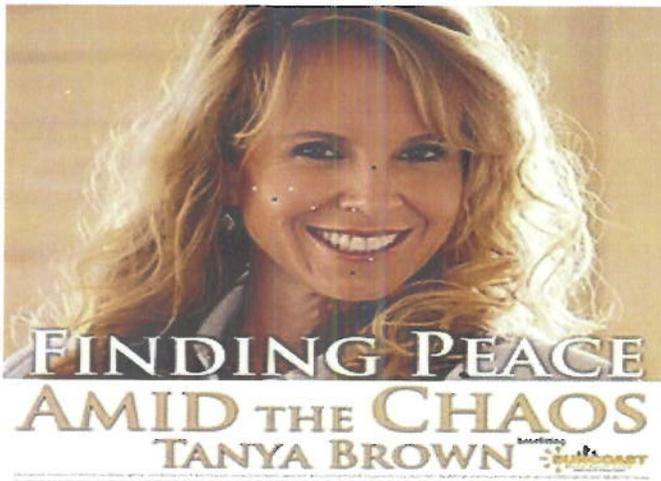
The AAUW branch High School Literary Award Committee includes Linda Hammond, Jahn Gibson, Paula Lerner, Nancy Reynolds and Laurie Koza-kiewicz.

# Crime Victim Rights Conference

The Family Counseling Center  
Domestic Violence Program  
Presents

*National Crime Victim Awareness Week*

*April 19-25, 2015*



**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Tanya Brown**  
**Sister of Nicole Brown-Simpson**

**\$20.00 per person conference fee**  
**Includes Lunch and Refreshments**

**For information and to register call:**  
**(518)725-4310 ext 145**

**Email:**  
**kinsogna@thefamilycounselingcenter.org**



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



**April 20, 2015**

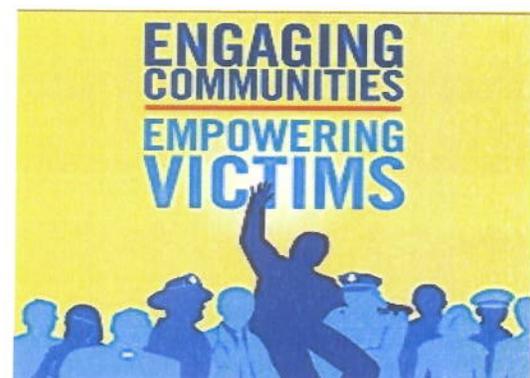
*10:00 am-4:00 pm*

*Johnstown Holiday Inn*  
*308 Comrie Ave*  
*Johnstown, NY 12095*

**Suicide and Domestic Violence**  
**Presenter: Laura Marx , Director**  
**Capital Region NY Area for the American**  
**Foundation for Suicide Prevention**

**Addictions and Domestic Violence**  
**Presenter: Ann Rhodes, Executive**  
**Director of HFM Prevention Council**

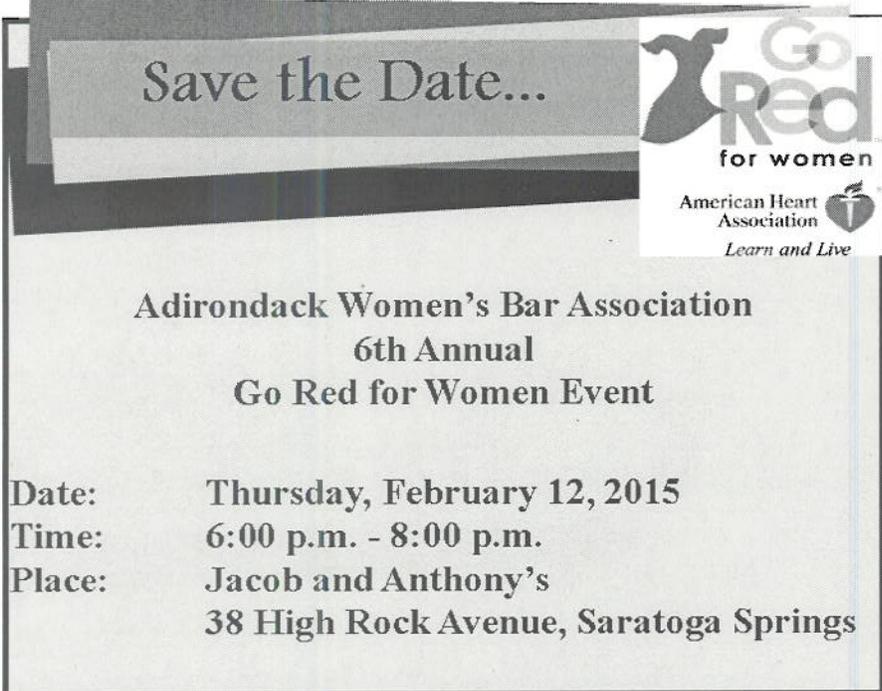
**Panel Discussion - Your opportunity for**  
**questions & discussion**



**Hon Polly A Hoyer**

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**From:** Adirondack Women's Bar Association <adirondack.womens.bar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2015 2:38 PM  
**To:** Adirondack Womens Bar  
**Subject:** Save the Date: 2-12-15 GO RED FOR WOMEN



**Save the Date...**

**Go Red  
for women**

American Heart Association  
*Learn and Live*

**Adirondack Women's Bar Association  
6th Annual  
Go Red for Women Event**

**Date:** Thursday, February 12, 2015  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Jacob and Anthony's  
38 High Rock Avenue, Saratoga Springs

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## ADIRONDACK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

A Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York  
*FOUNDED 2003*

*Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts*

**Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair**

## **Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts**

Chair: *Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas, J.S.C.*

Members: *Hannah Arterian (Dean, Syracuse University College of Law); Christine M. Barry, Esq. (Support Magistrate); Fran Ciardullo, Esq. (Private practitioner); Timothy J. Fennell, Esq. (Private practitioner); Cindy Granger, Esq. (Private practitioner); Mary Iocovozzi, Esq. (Lewis County Attorney's Office); Loretta Kilpatrick, Esq. (Principal Law Clerk to Hon. Donald Greenwood); Bonnie Gail Levy, Esq. (Assistant Attorney General); Maureen Maney, Esq. (Private practitioner; Former 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); Sandra Sabourin, Esq. (Principal Law Clerk to Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas); 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)*

Counties Served: *Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego*

### **2015 Meetings**

Date of Meetings: *February 5, 2015; April 23, 2015; December 10, 2015*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *Yes*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *Together with the Central New York Women's Bar Association, we completed a documentary on Karen DeCrow. The documentary can be viewed on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=7S\\_tExImNyM&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=7S_tExImNyM&app=desktop).*

### **2015 Special Events**

Activities for Women's History Month: *Public showing of Karen DeCrow documentary*

### **Special Event Marketing**

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

Who and how many attended? *Women and men from upstate New York including judges, lawyers and laypeople.*

Was there any press before or after? *No*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016? *Together with the Central New York Women's Bar Association and the National Women's Law Student Association Chapter at Syracuse University College of Law on February 18, 2016 we are holding the first Karen DeCrow Lecture Series featuring Sarah Feingold, General Counsel at Etsy.*

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2016? *February, April, September, and December*

### **Collaboration**

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

*Bar Associations and Colleges*



The Central New York Women's Bar Association,  
The National Women's Law Student Association at Syracuse University College of Law,  
and the Fifth Judicial District Women in the Courts Committee  
are proud to announce the inaugural

# Karen DeCrow Lecture

with Sarah Feingold, Counsel at Etsy, Inc.



February 18, 2016  
5:00 to 8:00 pm

Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom,  
Dineen Hall  
Syracuse University College of Law  
950 Irving Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13244

To register, visit <http://bit.do/DeCrow>  
or contact [cnywba@gmail.com](mailto:cnywba@gmail.com)

The Karen DeCrow Lecture Series was created to promote the values that Karen strived to advance throughout her life, including gender equality, human rights, and social justice. We hope you will join us for this exciting event!

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## Program

### Welcoming Remarks

Julia Martin

President, Central New York Women's Bar Association

### Memorial Karen DeCrow Film

### Introduction of Karen DeCrow Lecture Speaker

Colleen Gibbons

President, National Women's Law Student Association  
Chapter at Syracuse University College of Law

### Karen DeCrow Lecture

Sarah Feingold, Esq.  
Counsel, Etsy, Inc.

### Closing Remarks

Julia Martin

Following the close of the program, please join us in the Dineen Hall Atrium for a reception with champagne and sweets in honor of Karen.



Born an artist, **Sarah Feingold** decided that the best way to protect creative folk like herself was to go to Syracuse University College of Law. She currently serves as Counsel of Etsy, Inc. (etsy.com) and specializes in intellectual property, business and commerce law. When she's not practicing law, she's speaking or writing about legal issues. (Sarah penned the ebook "Copyright for Artists") or she's hammering silver in her tiny Brooklyn apartment kitchen (feingoldjewelry.com).

Sarah speaks regularly on issues including social entrepreneurship, alternative legal careers, feminism, and intellectual property law. Sarah has also been featured by Whole Living magazine (a Martha Stewart publication).

For more information about Sarah, please visit her website (<http://www.sarahfeingold.com/>).



**Karen DeCrow** was a writer, a lawyer and a tireless campaigner for women's rights. Karen consistently challenged the ways women and men view their roles in society and in the family. In her own words, Karen's ultimate vision was "a world where the gender of a baby will have little or no relevance to future pursuits or pleasures."

Karen graduated from the Syracuse University College of Law in 1972, the only female graduate with her class. She served as President of the National Organization for Women ("NOW") and was the first female candidate for Mayor of the City of Syracuse. Karen also co-founded CNYWBA and helped to organize the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. In her private practice, Karen promoted gender equality by securing diaper changing facilities at airports for men, developing non-sexist curricula in schools, and securing the right of females to participate on an equal basis in school and club athletics.

Karen passed away on June 6, 2014 at the age of 76.

## Inaugural Karen DeCrow Lecture Planning Committee

Colleen Gibbons  
Julia Martin  
Samantha Millier  
Hon. Deborah Karalunas  
Kristin Pardee  
Deborah O'Malley

### Special Thanks

Sarah Feingold

Syracuse University College of Law  
Student Bar Association  
Office of Advancement  
Office of Student Life

Joel Whitney & Syracuse University College of Law Information  
Technology and Support Services

The film memorializing Karen DeCrow was produced by  
Tad Fundalinski with financial support from the  
Women's Bar Association of the State of New York  
and the Central New York Women's Bar Association



The Central New York Women's Bar Association,  
The National Women's Law Student Association at Syracuse University College of Law,  
and the Fifth Judicial District Women in the Courts Committee  
proudly present the inaugural

# Karen DeCrow Lecture with Sarah Feingold, Counsel at Etsy, Inc.

February 18, 2016 · 5:00 pm  
Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom  
Dineen Hall  
Syracuse University College of Law

*Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Teresa Johnson, Chair**

## **Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness committee**

Chair: *Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Acting County Court Judge, Supervising Judge, City Courts, Seventh Judicial District*

Members – *Attached*

Counties Served: *Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *March 18, May 20, July 15, November 12*

Average Attendance: *5*

Do you use Videoconferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? *Yes*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *We have focused on reinvigorating our Committee and re-evaluating our goals. We have also targeted additional members to invite to expand our reach and increase involvement.*

### **2015 Special Events**

Other Special Events or Activities in 2015:

*We have worked closely with our District Executive to increase the availability of baby changing stations in courthouses throughout the District. Except in instances where a bathroom was too small to include a station, stations have been installed in men's and women's bathrooms throughout the District. One County is still lacking, and staff are working with that county to rectify the situation.*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016?

Special Events & Educational Programs

*Women's History Month: Petticoats to Pantsuits, planned for March 21, 2016. The Director of the Susan B. Anthony Center at the University of Rochester will present a program based on the letters of Susan B. Anthony. Flyer attached.*

Meetings: *Five additional meetings planned for this year.*

### **Concerns**

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016? *Continuing access to child care centers is an issue. It is not available in all counties.*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Child care centers availability and accessibility*

Do you see unmet training needs? *Not at the present time.*

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

Would online viewing or videoconferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real-time on your desktop computer? *Yes*

### **Collaboration**

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

*Bar Associations and Colleges*

Is there anything else you would like to submit? *No*

**GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE MEMBER ROSTER**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>
Monroe	<b>Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Chair City Court Judge</b>	Room 6 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, New York 14614 Phone (585) 371-3406 Fax (585) 371-3423 email office: <a href="mailto:tjohnson@nycourts.gov">tjohnson@nycourts.gov</a> email home: <a href="mailto:teresadjohnson@mac.com">teresadjohnson@mac.com</a>
Monroe	Sara S. Ashcraft, Esq. Family Court Practitioner	150 Allens Creek Rd. Rochester, New York 14618 Phone (585) 442-0540 ext.313 Fax (585) 442-6889 email <a href="mailto:Sashcraft@afylaw.com">Sashcraft@afylaw.com</a>
Monroe	Catherine Cerulli, Esq.	Susan B. Anthony Ctr. For Women's Leadership U or R, RC Box 270435 Rochester, NY 14627-1435 Phone: 585-276-3256 Email: Catherine_Cerulli@URMC.Rochester.edu
Wayne	Richard DeValk, Esq. Private Practitioner	6 East Main St. Sodus, NY 14551 Phone: (315) 483-6931 Email: <a href="mailto:rdevalk@lawdhp.com">rdevalk@lawdhp.com</a>
Monroe	Judy L. DiPaola Principal Office Stenographer Supreme & County Courts	545 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd Rochester, NY 14614 Phone (585) 371-3630 Email: <a href="mailto:jdipaola@nycourts.gov">jdipaola@nycourts.gov</a>
Monroe	Hon. Gail A. Donofrio Supreme Court Justice	301 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, NY 14614 Phone # (585) 371-3502 Fax: (585) 784-4202 Email: <a href="mailto:gdonofri@nycourts.gov">gdonofri@nycourts.gov</a>
Monroe	Adele Fine, Esq. Assistant Public Defender	10 N. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: 585-753-4548 Email: <a href="mailto:afine@monroecounty.gov">afine@monroecounty.gov</a>
Monroe	Sharon Rivaldo Retired Deputy Sheriff	241 Shorewood Drive Webster, NY 14580 Phone: _____ email: _____

Monroe	Jaime Saunders Alternatives for Battered Women	P.O. Box 39601 Rochester, NY 14604-9601 Phone: _____ Email: <a href="mailto:JaimeS@willowcenterny.org">JaimeS@willowcenterny.org</a>
Monroe	Sharon Kelly Sayers, Esq. Family Court Practitioner	30 W. Broad St., Ste. 506 Rochester, New York 14614 Phone (585) 454-2320 Fax (585) 454-1612 email: <a href="mailto:sayers@frontiernet.net">sayers@frontiernet.net</a>
Monroe	Josie M. Sheppard, Esq.	Trevett Cristo 2 State Street, Suite 1000 Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: 585-454-2181, ext. 115 Email: <a href="mailto:jsheppard@trevettcristo.com">jsheppard@trevettcristo.com</a>
Ontario	Hon. Elisabeth Toole	Geneva City Court 4067 W. Lake Road, Geneva, NY 14456 Phone (315) 789-4618 Fax (315) 789-1938 Email: <a href="mailto:apetroni@rochester.rr.com">apetroni@rochester.rr.com</a>
Cayuga	Roberta Williams, Esq. Private Practitioner	11 Court St. Auburn, NY 13021 Phone: 315- 253-4050 Debbie Robinson (Sec'y.) Fax 315- 253-4223 email <a href="mailto:drobinson@whmblaw.com">drobinson@whmblaw.com</a> email <a href="mailto:rwilliams@whmblaw.com">rwilliams@whmblaw.com</a>
Monroe	Kelly Wolford, Esq. Assistant District Attorney	47 S. Fitzhugh St., Suite 832 Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: 585-753-4335 Fax: 585-753-4576 email: <a href="mailto:kwolford@monroecounty.gov">kwolford@monroecounty.gov</a>



*Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Jeannette Ogden, Chair**

## **Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee (GRFC)**

Chair: *Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden*

Members – *Attached*

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

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *2/25/15, 3/31/15, 5/19/15, 6/30/15, 7/29/15, 9/23/15, 11/24/15*

Average Attendance: *15*

Do you use Videoconferencing? *Yes*

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? *Yes*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:

*The Committee's efforts resulted in the creation of relationships between the Courts in Erie County and the Coalition of Muslim Women, Immigration Law Project of the Bar Association of Erie County's Volunteer Lawyer Project, Inc., other representatives of the immigrant community in western New York and Rubens Mukunzi, owner and publisher of the Karibu News, the sole multilingual & Multicultural Newspaper serving the immigrant community in western New York. These agencies will serve as Court/Community resources, thereby enhancing the Court's access to justice efforts. The Community also commenced dialog with the Iroquois Confederacy to enhance access to justice efforts for Native American women.*

### **2015 Special Events**

*Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015: A program entitled "the impact of domestic violence on children's brain development and appropriate responses", developed, coordinated and facilitated by the GRFC and co-sponsored by the Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming County Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, was held on Oct. 6, 2015. Annie Monaco, L.C.S.W.R., a Psychotherapist, Trainer and Trauma Specialist presented on Trauma Informed Counseling, a video entitled "First Impressions: Exposure to Violence and a Child's Developing Brain" was shown and the Presiding Judges of the IDV Courts provided judicial insights. The program was very successful and well received. The 8th JD Administrative Judge expressed an interest in sharing this program with the entire district. There were approximately 85 lawyers and 8 judges in attendance. The program was also available for Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming County Bar Association members via live video broadcast. A copy of the program brochure is attached.*

*Activities for Women's History Month 2015: The GRFC did not have a formal program for women's history month. Instead, Committee members supported a lunch and learn program for Court employees and members of the public where the Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of WYN discussed the importance of preparing girls for positions within the Unified Court System*

*at an early age. A copy of the program brochure is attached. GRFC members Ogden, Isenberg and Scruggs participated as speakers for Women's History month in the Community. The GRFC also disseminated the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts "Fair Speech: Gender Neutral Language in the Courts", Unified Court System Workplace Violence Prevention and Sexual Harassment Policy brochures to all employees throughout the 8th Judicial District. The Committee operates under the premise that every month is Domestic Violence Awareness month.*

*Essay Contest: The GRFC supported an essay contest conducted by the Bar Association of Erie County by serving as Judges for high school student submissions of essays and art work as part of the Bar Association's Law Day luncheon program which is attended by approximately 400 people.*

*Other Special Events or Activities in 2015:*

*The GRFC held its biannual Lamplighter Luncheon on June 24, 2015 and recognized nine (9) women who, through determination and personal achievement, are shining examples of "Lady Justice", lighting the way to equality and justice throughout Western New York. The honorees were: Hon. Rosalie S. Bailey (past Chair of the GRFC and current board member of the Statewide Committee on Women in the law), Hon. Lenora B. Foote (Erie County Family Court Support Magistrate), Katherine S. Bifaro (Executive Director, Bar Association of Erie County), Hon. Beth A. Farwell (Allegany and Wyoming County Family Court Support Magistrate), Grace M. Hanlon (Former First Assistant Chautauqua County District Attorney and current Confidential Law Clerk for Chautauqua County Court Judge John Ward), Mary Louise Hayden (Erie County Supreme Court Attorney Referee), Tracey A. Kassman (Erie County Family Court Attorney Referee), Tasha E. Moore (Regional Director, Buffalo Office for the New York State Division of Human Rights) and the Hon. Madge T. Taggart, posthumously (First Woman Judge elected to Buffalo City Court and Erie County Family Court). The program was well attended and well received. The packed event was attended by 195 people (lawyers, family members, co-workers and well-wishers of the awardees), excluding GRFC members.*

*The GRFC members collaborated with and participated in an Ethnic Luncheon in February of 2015 where Court personnel prepared various ethnic dishes and shared their cultural significance with the approximately 75 people in attendance.*

*The GRFC members collaborated with and participated in the 27th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness held on June 10-13, 2015. Committee members served as ushers, registration assistants and performed other tasks upon request.*

*The Committee hosted a wellness program advertised as a lunch and learn motivational workshop program titled "Intention, Attention, No Tension" in Erie County on Sept. 28, 2015 and in Niagara County on Sept. 29, 2015. A presenter was brought in to address challenges and stresses associated with change. Stress kits were prepared and disseminated to the approximate 50 court employees in attendance in Erie County and 35 court employees in attendance in Niagara County.*

*The Committee continued its efforts to promote diversity and inclusion within the Court system as well as the Court to Community Jury Duty project. Committee members made well-attended presentations about careers in the courts to approximately 25 members of the Burmese community; the importance of jury service to a group of 30 ministers and subsequently to the 100 member congregation of one of the ministers and civil service exam preparation presentations were made at Bryant and Stratton and Hilbert Colleges. At least 25 - 30 people attended each of the presentations.*

*A Committee representative also met with the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Deaf Adult Services to discuss deaf interpreting services in furtherance of our access to justice efforts. All of our outreach efforts place an emphasis on women.*

*The GRFC engaged in a project titled: "Cans and Crayons" in collaboration with "Emma's Crayons 4 Kids", as one of our Christmas Projects. Several Committee members collected cans and crayons. The crayons were melted down to make multi-colored crayon blocks and deposits received on the cans were all used to purchase pads of drawing paper. The crayon blocks and paper was donated for use by approximately 200 immigrant children as well as for use in the waiting area of the Women and Children's Hospital operating room waiting area.*

*GRFC members also contributed toiletries to the National Association of Women Judges Women's Prison Project. The toiletries were distributed to the Albion Correctional Facility for use by the women inmates as part of gift bags provided to departing women re-entering the community.*

### **Special Event Marketing**

*How were your special events advertised or marketed? Our events were advertised by e-mail, flyers, publications in the bar association monthly periodicals and in the local newspaper. (Available advertisements are attached)*

*Who and how many attended? (see above responses)*

*Was there any press before or after? There was press coverage before the Lamplighter Luncheon.*

### **Future Plans**

*What are your plans for 2016?*

*The Committee plans to conduct a lunch and learn program titled "Parenting after Violence" for Domestic Violence Awareness Month; to be offered to lawyers, judges and court personnel. The committee also plans to video the program for reuse during community presentations.*

*The Committee Chair will be the guest speaker at a community event in commemoration of Women's History Month. The presentation is directed to adolescent girls and young adult women. The Committee also plans to conduct a lunch program with a speaker to acknowledge the presence and progress of women court officers and chief clerks in Western New York as part of Women's History Month. The program will be entitled, "See them/ be them". The goal is to highlight women court officers.*

*The Committee will have its' biannual program at the Delores M. Denman Court house, Appellate Division, Fourth Dept., in Rochester, NY where a plaque containing the names of the Lamplighter Awardees will be added to the names of past honorees and their contributions will be highlighted.*

*The GRFC will meet at least 6 times per year and will establish a standard monthly meeting date, beginning with the April 2016 meeting.*

*The GRFC will sponsor training for various Court Clerk exams, using volunteer lawyers to discuss various sections of laws that will be covered on the exams. While the programs will be available to everyone, the Committee will invite current employees and members of women's organizations to attend.*

*The Committee will examine issues facing adolescent girls, New American women, Hearing Impaired women, Native American women, Homosexual Women, Gay Men and Women Veterans and their concerns regarding understanding of and access to the Courts in western New York.*

*The Committee will continue to collaborate with Erie County Family Court Coalition on interpreters.*

### **Concerns**

*What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016? Meaningful opportunities for women and minorities in the Court system; highlighting and eliminating negative perceptions and implicit biases against adolescents, economically depressed women and women who suffer from a mental disease or defect by members of the court system and enhancing opportunities for civil legal services for women.*

*Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? The lack of adequate child care availability for litigants continues to be a problem in the 8<sup>th</sup> judicial district; particularly outside of the Family Court. Accessibility to interpreters to address language barriers for case preparation as well as court access also continues to be a problem.*

*Do you see unmet training needs? The need for cultural sensitivity is continuous and essential to ensure adequate access to justice. Although periodic training is conducted, training should be*

*annual and provided to all court employees, as well as to people who regularly interact with the courts.*

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

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

*Include programs on Implicit Bias, engaging and interacting with the mentally ill, cultural sensitivity and interpersonal relations offered at lunch & learn programs and offered on more than one occasion; thereby enabling greater access and attendance.*

Would online viewing or videoconferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real-time on your desktop computer? *Sometimes*

### **Collaboration**

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

*Yes: The Bar Associations of Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus, and Wyoming Counties; The Minority Bar Association of WNY, The Women's Bar Association, The New York State Bar Association, The National Association of Women Judges – NY Chapter and the University of New York at Buffalo Law School.*

Is there anything else you would like to submit? *No*

**8<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
GENDER & RACIAL FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Chairperson	Justice - New York State Supreme Court	<a href="mailto:EOGDEN@courts.state.ny.us">EOGDEN@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Patricia Aeillo	Deputy Chief Clerk Allegany County Supreme & Family Courts	<a href="mailto:PAIELLO@nycourts.gov">PAIELLO@nycourts.gov</a>
Lisa Baehre	Niagara County DAs Office DV Bureau Chief	No email address yet
Mona Baskin, Esq.	Senior Court Attorney Erie County Surrogate Court	<a href="mailto:MBASKIN@courts.state.ny.us">MBASKIN@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Susan Biller	Confidential Secretary Wyoming County Court	<a href="mailto:SBILLER@nycourts.gov">SBILLER@nycourts.gov</a>
Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres	Judge - Buffalo City Court	<a href="mailto:BCALVOTO@courts.state.ny.us">BCALVOTO@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Paula DaBella	Chief Clerk - Batavia City Court	<a href="mailto:PDABELLA@courts.state.ny.us">PDABELLA@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Jacqueline DiAngelo	Chief Clerk - Wyoming County	<a href="mailto:JDIANGEL@courts.state.ny.us">JDIANGEL@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Hon. Sheila DiTullio	Judge - Erie County Court Supervision Judge of County Courts- 8 <sup>th</sup> JD	<a href="mailto:SDITULLI@courts.state.ny.us">SDITULLI@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Sheukira Feaster	Court Analyst Buffalo Housing Court	<a href="mailto:SFEASTER@nycourts.gov">SFEASTER@nycourts.gov</a>
Hon. Paula Feroletto	Administrative Judge of 8 <sup>th</sup> JD	<a href="mailto:PFEROLET@courts.state.ny.us">PFEROLET@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Mary Louise Hayden, Esq.	Law Clerk - Supreme Court	<a href="mailto:MLHAYDEN@courts.state.ny.us">MLHAYDEN@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Brenda Heath, Esq.	Orleans County Multi-Bench	<a href="mailto:BHEATH@courts.state.ny.us">BHEATH@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Maureen Hourihan	Niagara Falls City Court	<a href="mailto:MHOURIHA@courts.state.ny.us">MHOURIHA@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Andrew Isenberg	District Executive of 8 <sup>th</sup> JD	<a href="mailto:AISENBER@courts.state.ny.us">AISENBER@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Anna Jochum	Court Interpreter Chautauqua County Family	<a href="mailto:AJOCHUM@courts.state.ny.us">AJOCHUM@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Kimberly LoCurto	Admin Assistance -Family Court	<a href="mailto:KLOCURTO@courts.state.ny.us">KLOCURTO@courts.state.ny.us</a>

Danielle Maichle, Esq.	Senior Staff Attorney	<a href="mailto:dmaichle@legalaidbuffalo.org">dmaichle@legalaidbuffalo.org</a>
Cynthia Milhouse	Erie County Family Court	<a href="mailto:CMILHOUSE@courts.state.ny.us">CMILHOUSE@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Jose Rodriguez	Spanish Court Interpreter Buffalo City Court	<a href="mailto:jarodrig@nycourts.gov">jarodrig@nycourts.gov</a>
Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin	Judge - Family Court	<a href="mailto:LBRODWIN@courts.state.ny.us">LBRODWIN@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Veronica Rucker	Senior Court Analyst Erie Supreme/County Courts	<a href="mailto:VRUCKER@courts.state.ny.us">VRUCKER@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Hon. Robert Russell Jr.	Judge - Buffalo City Court	<a href="mailto:RRUSSELL@courts.state.ny.us">RRUSSELL@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Sheila Weir Schwaneekamp, Esq.	Court Attorney Referee	<a href="mailto:SSCHWANE@courts.state.ny.us">SSCHWANE@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Lori Shurilla	Principal Office Assistance Cattaraugus/Family Courts	<a href="mailto:LSHURILL@courts.state.ny.us">LSHURILL@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Sharon Thomas, Vice Chair	Chief Clerk - Buffalo City Court	<a href="mailto:STHOMAS@courts.state.ny.us">STHOMAS@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Marie Villari	Principal Admin Assistance- Personnel	<a href="mailto:MVILLARI@courts.state.ny.us">MVILLARI@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Colleen Wagner	Chief Clerk - Lockport City Court	<a href="mailto:CJWAGNER@courts.state.ny.us">CJWAGNER@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Hon. John Ward	Judge - Chautauqua County Court	<a href="mailto:JWARD@courts.state.ny.us">JWARD@courts.state.ny.us</a>
Oliver Young, Esq.	Principal Court Attorney Supreme /County Courts	<a href="mailto:OYOUNG@courts.state.ny.us">OYOUNG@courts.state.ny.us</a>



## THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# ETHNIC LUNCHEON



**IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH, WE WOULD LIKE TO HONOR  
ALL ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS**

**WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015**

**WHERE: BUFFALO CITY COURT  
7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR**

**TIME: 12 NOON TO 2:00 P.M.**

TO HELP MAKE THIS LUNCHEON A SUCCESS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO  
BRING A DISH TO PASS OF YOUR CHOICE, OR A DONATION OF \$15 TO  
HELP WITH THE COST OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES.

### CONTACTS

PAULA GARNER 52667	SANDRA SCRUGGS 53603
VERONICA RUCKER 59329	SHARON THOMAS 52652
DONNA O'CONNOR 52784	LYNNE BAUGH-RICHARDSON 53683

PLEASE RESPOND NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 24, 2015

\*\*\*\*\*ALL ARE WELCOME\*\*\*\*\*



*Eightth Judicial District Diversity Steering Committee  
Minority Bar Association of WNY, Inc.  
Women's Bar Association of the State of NY Diversity Committee  
Erie Co. Bar Association Minority Outreach Committee*

**IN RECOGNITION OF**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**A CENTURY OF BLACK LIFE,  
HISTORY AND CULTURE**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



**CINDY ODOM, CEO  
GIRL SCOUTS OF WNY**

**FEBRUARY 24, 2015  
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.  
92 Franklin St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, NY**



**2015 Lamplighter Award Honorees**



**2015 Black History Month Program Participants**



**Eighth Judicial District  
Gender and  
Racial Fairness Committee  
Women in the Law Luncheon  
Wednesday, June 24, 2015**

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



**Hon. Rosalie S. Bailey**  
**Retired Erie County Family Court Judge**

Judge Bailey dedicated almost 40 years of service to the legal community in Western New York. Her service with the Unified Court System began as a Confidential Law Clerk to Supreme Court Justice Norman Wolf. Upon his retirement, she was appointed as a Court Attorney Referee, where she wrote and developed the protocols for the Erie

County Expedited Matrimonial System and served as a Referee. She was then elected to serve as an Erie County Family Court Judge, where she concentrated on family offense and custody and visitation matters. Judge Bailey presided over thousands of family court cases, many with pro se (self-represented) litigants. In every case she strived to make the court more accessible to litigants. She was awarded the 2013 William F. Hoyt Award from the Erie County Coalition against Family Violence for her efforts. She has also been recognized as the Lawyer of the Year by the Women Lawyers of WNY.

Judge Bailey was active, advocating for the rights of children and families both on and off the bench. She has spoken locally and statewide about matrimonial and family matters. She was an invited speaker at the Child and Youth Advocates Program at Harvard Law School where she studied negotiations for lawyers. Judge Bailey is the former Chair of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Women in the Courts/Gender & Racial Fairness Committee.

Prior to joining the Unified Court System, Judge Bailey was an appeals lawyer at the Legal Aid Bureau, an attorney in private practice and an instructor at Niagara University. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, American University and Bennett High School, where she is in the Alumni Hall of Fame.

Although she has retired from the Unified Court System, she continues to contribute her time and talents through board membership on the Statewide Committee on Women in the Courts; the Buffalo Urban League; and the Erie County Legal Services for the Elderly, while spending quality time with her husband of 40 years, attorney Tom Bailey, their three daughters (one journalist and two attorneys) and two darling granddaughters. In this capacity, she continues to light the path to equality and justice.



**Hon. Lenora B. Foote**  
**Erie County Family Court Support Magistrate**

Lenora B. Foote is a Family Court Magistrate Judge in Erie County where she has positively impacted the lives of thousands of families for almost 10 years. She is the only African American Magistrate Judge serving on the Family Court in the 8th Judicial District. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Hilbert College and the 2014-2015 President of the University of New York at Buffalo Law School.

Magistrate Foote graduated from Canisius College as a Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar and earned a BA Degree in Political Science. She earned her Juris Doctorate Degree in law from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. She was appointed as the first Save Our Streets Coordinator for the City of Buffalo, a program that united local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to tackle illegal and social problems of existing in urban neighborhoods. She went on to become a member of the City of Buffalo's Corporation Counsel's office where she served as a Housing Court Prosecutor and General Counsel to the City's Urban Renewal Agency.

Magistrate Foote is an active member of the Burchfield Penny Art Center, the Canisius College Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors of the Bar Association of Erie County's Volunteer Lawyers Project and Assigned Counsel Program, the Erie County Bar Foundation, the Minority Bar Association of WNY (Past President) and the Women's Bar Association of WNY (Chair, NYS Diversity Committee).

She is a woman who leads by example, shining the light for others to follow.



**Katherine S. Bifaro**  
**Executive Director, Bar Association of Erie County**

Katherine Bifaro has served as the Executive Director of the Bar Association of Erie County for over 20 years and served as the Association's bookkeeper for 7 years. She is a past president of the National Association of Bar Executives, chaired several of the organization's committees and produced and presented programs on bar association management issues. She also served on the Executive Council of the New York State Bar Association's Conference of Bar Leaders, during which time she chaired the Conference's Committee of Executive Directors.

Ms. Bifaro is the recipient of several awards for dedication and enhancement

of the legal community. She was awarded the Bolton Award for Professional Excellence, the National Association of Bar Executives' highest honor, as a result of her contributions. She received the New York State Bar Association's Franklin P. Gavin Memorial Award and the Bar Association of Erie County's Sandy Kulick Memorial Award for her work with the Bar Association of Erie County's Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee and she was recognized by the American Bar Association's Commission on Impaired Attorneys for her contributions in the area of substance abuse. In 1999, Ms. Bifaro was appointed by Chief Judge Judith Kaye to the Commission on Alcohol and Substance Abuse in the Legal Profession, which was formed to find ways to assist lawyers and judges with alcohol and substance abuse problems.

Ms. Bifaro, affectionately known as "Kathy" is the Lawyer's Leader; diligently coordinating and implementing programs to enhance the lives of lawyers, individually and collectively, with style, grace and love.



**Hon. Beth A. Farwell**  
**Allegany and Wyoming County Family Court Support**  
**Magistrate**

Beth Farwell is a Magistrate Judge in Allegany and Wyoming Counties where she presides over cases involving child support, paternity and modifications to judgements of divorce. Prior to joining the Unified Court System, Ms. Farwell served as an Assistant District Attorney, prosecuting persons accused of crimes and protecting the interests of innocent victims in Allegany County, as well as a Public Defender, protecting the rights of indigent persons accused of committing crimes in Allegany County.

For 28 years Ms. Farwell has worked diligently to balance the scales of justice in Western New York while at the same time effectively balancing the legal demands of the Court with the personal family needs of her husband Roger and their 2 daughters; both of whom are now in college. She even finds time to exercise her skill as a remarkable quilter.

Magistrate Farwell works to ensure that the economic value of unpaid homemaker work is recognized in family court cases, as well as work/family balance. She demonstrates, on a daily basis, the "invisible work" that women do for their jobs, their families and their communities, while working to make the "invisible" visible.

**8th Judicial District Women in the Courts**  
**Gender and Racial Fairness Committee Members**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden,<br>Chairperson | Kimberly LoCurto         |
| Mona Baskin                             | Danielle Maichle         |
| Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres                 | Hon. Lisa Block Rodwin   |
| Cynthia Milhouse                        | Jose Rodriguez           |
| Paula DaBella                           | Veronica Rucker          |
| Hon. Sheila DiTullio                    | Hon. Robert Russell, Jr. |
| Jacqueline DiAngelo                     | Sheila Weir Schwanekamp  |
| Hon. Paula Feroletto                    | Sandra Scruggs           |
| Mary Louise Hayden                      | Lori Shurilla            |
| Brenda Heath                            | Marie Villari            |
| Maureen Hourihan                        | Colleen Wagner           |
| Andrew Isenberg                         | Hon. John Ward           |
| Anna Jochum                             | Oliver Young             |



**Hon. Madge T. Taggart (posthumous)  
First Woman Judge Elected to Buffalo City Court  
and Erie County Family Court**

Madge Taggart was a trailblazer in the judiciary in Western New York. She was the first woman to be elected to the City Court of Buffalo, New York and the Family Court of Erie County. Judge Taggart graduated from the University of Buffalo and the University of Buffalo Law School in 1920; 95 years ago. She practiced law in Buffalo and from 1943 to 1952 was an Assistant District Attorney with the Erie County District Attorney's Office. She had been a clerk in the City Court of Buffalo for 11 years and was an Assistant District Attorney for 9 years before joining the City Court of Buffalo.

Judge Taggart was also the first woman to be elected to the Family Court in the County of Erie where is served with distinction.



**Grace M. Hanlon  
Former First Assistant Chautauqua County District  
Attorney and current Confidential Law Clerk for  
Chautauqua County Court Judge John Ward**

Grace Marie Hanlon is the confidential law clerk to Chautauqua County Court Judge John Ward and has been a practicing lawyer in Mayville, New York for 26 years. Prior to joining the court system, Ms. Hanlon was a prosecutor in the Chautauqua County District Attorney's office where she served as a zealous advocate for crime victims. She is a graduate of Pace University Law School and a member of the New York State Bar Association. As an advocate and advisor, Ms. Hanlon continues to advance the principals of equality and justice in Chautauqua County.



**Mary Louise Hayden  
Erie County Supreme Court Attorney Referee**

Mary Louise Hayden has served the legal community of Western New York for over 35 years, most of which were spent with the Unified Court System where she is a Court Attorney Referee in the areas of asbestos litigation and tax certiorari. She is also the Program Coordinator of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program in the 8th Judicial District; the first comprehensive program developed in New York State to standardize the application process for ADR matters before the courts. Ms Hayden was instrumental in the development of protocols used to implement the program in collaboration with members of the bench and practicing bar. As a result of Ms. Hayden's efforts, litigants in the court system to have an affordable, confidential, informal forum where they can play an important role in resolving their own disputes by creating solutions that are unique to their situation in the areas of family, general and commercial law. This often results in longer lasting outcomes, greater satisfaction and improved community relationships. She coordinates the ADR Program's implementation with the Program Administrators of the civil, commercial, matrimonial and Family Courts throughout the 8th Judicial District. Ms. Hayden was the Principal Law Clerk to the former 8th Judicial District Judge James B. Kane.

Prior to joining the Court system, Ms. Hayden worked as an attorney for the City of Buffalo, N.Y. as an Assistant Corporation Counsel. She received her BA Degree from American University and her Juris Doctorate Degree from Georgetown University Law School. Ms. Hayden is a member of the Bar Association of Erie County, WNY Chapter of the Women's Bar Association,

the New York State Bar Association and Secretary to the Women in the Courts/8th Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee.

Ms. Hayden is the “go to” person when you want to get things done in the court system.



**Tracey A. Kassman**  
**Erie County Family Court Attorney Referee**

Tracey Kassman has worked for equality and justice in the area of Matrimonial and Family Law in Western New York for almost 30 years. She currently serves as a Court Attorney Referee in the Niagara County Supreme Court, Expedited Matrimonial Part and the Family Court liaison for the Martin P. Violante Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program.

She is also the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Family Court Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program Administrator as well as a Court Attorney Referee in Erie County, where she hears and decides custody and visitation cases in the Erie County Family Court. Prior to joining the court system, Ms. Kassman was an attorney for children serving as Senior Law Guardian at the Children’s Legal Center. In this capacity she advocated for the rights and fair treatment of children in the legal system. She was awarded the Michael F. Dillon Law Guardian of the Year Award for her advocacy on behalf of children. Ms. Kassman was a partner in the law firm of Kassman and Kassman for 12 years, concentrating her legal practice in the area of Matrimonial and Family law matters prior to her years of public service.

Ms. Kassman has been an active participant on several court projects including the Children Come First Program, the Erie County Kinship Project and the Center for Court Innovation’s Working Group for Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Guide. She is also a frequent speaker and presenter for Catholic Charities as well as at training and parent education programs. Ms. Kassman is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School.

She also spends quality time with her husband their daughter.



**Tasha E. Moore**  
**Regional Director, Buffalo Office for the New York State Division of Human Rights**

Tasha E. Moore has served as the Regional Director of the Buffalo Office for the New York State Division of Human Rights for almost 10 years. She oversees the investigation and prosecution of violations of the law that prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, credit, places of public accommodations and non-sectarian educational institutions based on age, race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, military status and other specified classes.

Ms. Moore holds a B.A. in Business Economics from Florida A & M University (FAMU) and a J.D. from the SUNY Buffalo Law School. She is an active member and Past President of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York and under her leadership, the organization, in partnership with the University at Buffalo Law School, Millard Fillmore College and Equal Opportunity Center created the UB Law School Scholars program. She has served on the University at Buffalo Law School Alumni Association Board of Directors and on the Deans Advisory Committee of the UB Law School. She is a member of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York; Western New York Chapter and currently serves as Local Director.

Ms. Moore was named one of Buffalo’s Legal Elite of WNY in the September 26, 2014 edition Buffalo Business First and received the 2013 Citation for Special Achievement in Public Service from the New York State Bar Association’s Committee on Attorneys in Public Service (CAPS); which recognizes the special achievements of government attorneys for their commitment, leadership and contributions to the community. She has been named in the Buffalo Law Journal’s 2008 & 2009 special edition of Who’s Who in the Law, Civil rights Category and awarded the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award by the Students of Color, the 2009 Legal Service Award by the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, Inc. and the 2003 Division of Human Rights Commissioner’s Recognition Award.

Ms. Moore shares her life with a supportive and loving spouse of twenty plus years and two wonderful children.

## Charlotte A. Watson

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**From:** Andrew B. Isenberg  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2015 9:17 AM  
**To:** Aimee Neri; Lisa Bloch Rodwin; E. Jeannette Ogden; Susan Eagan  
**Cc:** Michael F. Griffith; Thomas P. Amodeo; Ana Brignoni-Waliczek  
**Subject:** Karen Society

I wanted to let you know Ana and I presented a broad overview of the courts and what to expect when going to court to the Karen Society Board Sunday evening. We also spoke about court interpreting. The program was well received.



Andrew B. Isenberg  
District Executive  
Eighth Judicial District Administrative Office  
92 Franklin Street – Third Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
(716)845-2506  
[aisenber@nycourts.gov](mailto:aisenber@nycourts.gov)

# Intention Attention No Tension

*Do you want to embrace change and move through it with ease and grace?*

*Would you like to eliminate fear, doubt, and worry and move toward your goals with confidence?*

*Do you want to achieve greater results with less effort?*

*Do you want to discover your true dream or purpose?*

If these questions resonate with you, then you are going to love this seminar! Learn to set a positive intention for this week and every week.

**LUNCH & LEARN: MONDAY,  
12:15 - 1:15 PM  
CEREMONIAL COURTROOM  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
92 FRANKLIN ST, BUFFALO**

A light lunch will be served. Please register by emailing Karen Cheu-Metz at [kcheu@nycourts.gov](mailto:kcheu@nycourts.gov) by September 21, 2015.

# Intention Attention No Tension

*Do you want to embrace change and move through it with ease and grace?*

*Would you like to eliminate fear, doubt, and worry and move toward your goals with confidence?*

*Do you want to achieve greater results with less effort?*

*Do you want to discover your true dream or purpose?*

If these questions resonate with you, then you are going to love this seminar! Learn to set a positive intention for this week and every week.

**LUNCH & LEARN: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>  
12:15 - 1:15 PM  
NIAGARA COUNTY COURT  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, JURY ROOM  
LOCKPORT**

A light lunch will be served. Please register by emailing Karen Cheu-Metz at [kcheu@nycourts.gov](mailto:kcheu@nycourts.gov) by September 21, 2015.

# **The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children’s Brain Development and Appropriate Responses**

**October 6, 2015**

**Noon-1:30 p.m.**

**Genesee County Courthouse  
Grand Jury Assembly Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

*Hosted by :*

*Genesee County IDV Court*

*Orleans County IDV Court*

*Wyoming County IDV Court*

*Co-sponsorship and Lunch provided by :*

*8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee*

## **PROGRAM**

***WELCOME***

**HON. PAULA FEROLETO**  
Administrative Judge, 8<sup>th</sup> District

***“FIRST IMPRESSIONS; EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE AND A CHILD’S DEVELOPING BRAIN” VIDEO***  
*(Ca. Atty. Gen., 2008)*

**SHEILA SCHWANERKAMP, ESQ.**  
8<sup>TH</sup> District DV and IDV Court Project Coordinator

***TRAUMA INFORMED COUNSELING***

**ANNIE MONACO, L.C.S.W.R.**  
Trauma Specialist: Psychotherapist, Trainer and Consultant

***JUDICIAL INSIGHTS***

**HON. ERIC ADAMS**, Genesee IDV Court  
**HON. JAMES PUNCH**, Orleans IDV Court  
**HON. MICHAEL GRIFFITH**, Wyoming IDV Court

***CLOSING***

**HON. E. JEANETTE OGDEN**  
Chair, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee



**Emma with a large can donation from someone from the court. She hopes now to buy pads and melt enough old crayons into new crayons for nearly 200 immigrant children. She will be distributing this at a health fair for immigrant and refugee families sponsored by Jewish Family Services.**

NEW YORK STATE  
UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

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# Sexual Harassment:

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Policy  Procedures

**NYS UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM**  
**Workplace Violence Prevention**  
**Policy**

The NYS Unified Court System (UCS) is committed to the safety and security of our employees. Workplace violence presents a serious occupational safety hazard to our judges and nonjudicial personnel and to the public.

The term “workplace violence” is defined as any physical assault, threatening behavior or verbal abuse occurring in the work setting. The UCS prohibits workplace violence and will not tolerate violence, threats of violence, or intimidating conduct in the workplace. Threats, threatening behavior or acts of violence against judges, employees, visitors, guests or other individuals by anyone on UCS property will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action will be taken.

All employees are responsible for helping to create an environment of mutual respect for each other and the public, following all policies, procedures and program requirements, and assisting in maintaining a safe and secure work environment.

This policy is designed to meet the requirements of NYS Labor Law 27-b and was developed in conjunction with representatives from the collective bargaining associations.

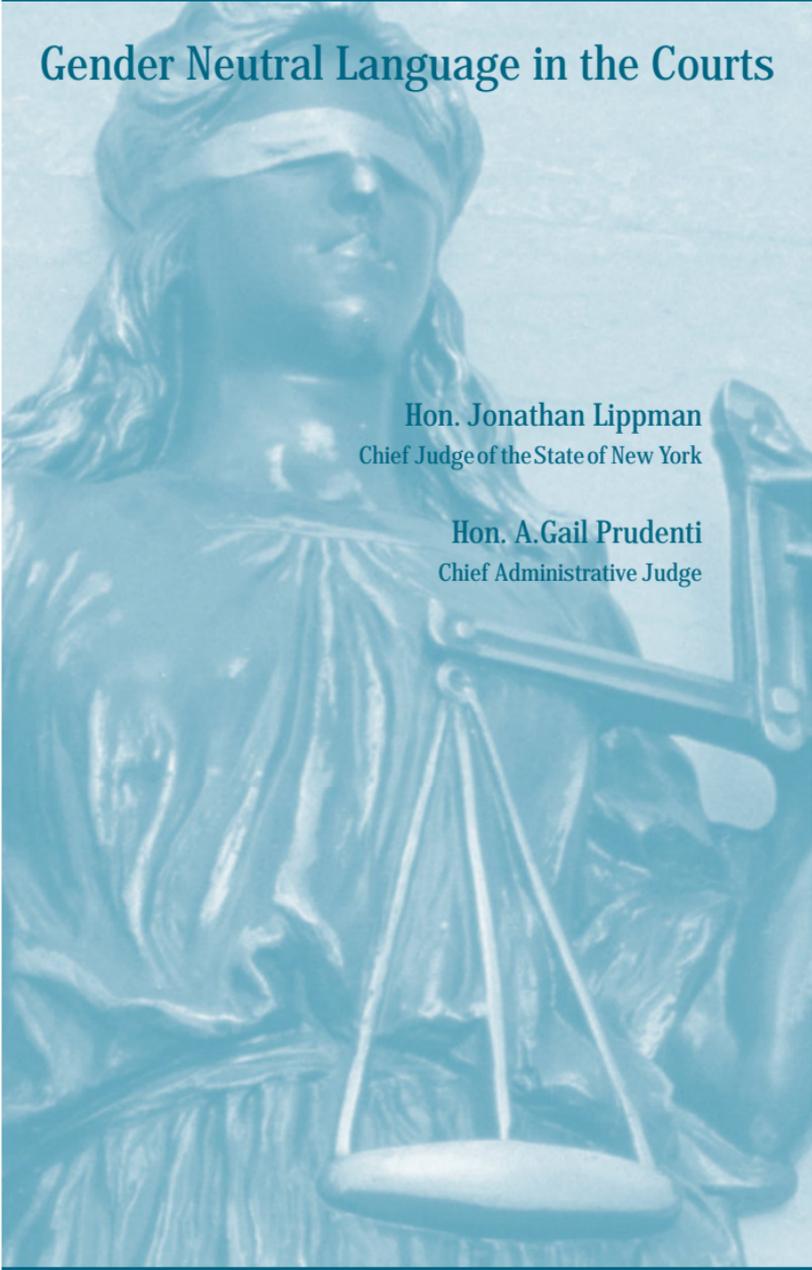
The goal of this policy is to promote the safety and well-being of all people in our workplace. All incidents of violence or threatening behavior will be responded to immediately upon notification. If appropriate, the UCS will provide counseling services or referrals for employees.

### **Workplace Violence Prevention Program**

In consultation with collective bargaining association representatives, the UCS shall develop and implement a written Workplace Violence Prevention Program for its workplaces that includes the following:

- Definition of workplace violence
- Commitment to a workplace free of violence
- Techniques on how to recognize and avoid workplace violence situations
- Identification of high risk situations
- Importance of reporting all workplace violence incidents and the procedures to do so
- Employee assistance information

# FAIR SPEECH



## Gender Neutral Language in the Courts

Hon. Jonathan Lippman  
Chief Judge of the State of New York

Hon. A. Gail Prudenti  
Chief Administrative Judge

New York State Judicial Committee on  
Women in the Courts

Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Chair

# FAIR SPEECH

## Gender Neutral Language in the Courts

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**In recent years, the formal language of the courts has changed** in response to efforts to create, in the words of the New York Task Force on Women in the Courts, “a justice system more fully committed to fairness and equality.” Forms, regulations, and statutes have been reviewed to eliminate words and expressions that exclude women or perpetuate the idea that men are the norm and women special cases. Regulations no longer say *he* when they mean *he* or *she*, and official letters are not addressed to *Dear Sir* when the recipients are judges, lawyers, or any other group that may include both men and women.

Spoken language is equally important. In courts, people communicate critical information not just on paper but face-to-face. On any weekday, our courts are filled with clerks and court officers talking to litigants, lawyers discussing cases, and judges making rulings from the bench. All of them are conveying not only data and facts but subtle messages about the status of the participants in the exchanges and their relations to each other.

At stake are not just claims for equality. Clarity is another victim of language that inappropriately incorporates gender. The ambiguous use, for example, of male terms to refer to both men and women can create confusion, sometimes with profound effects. In one notorious case, the Supreme Court of the State of Washington reversed a murder conviction in part because a jury was instructed on the “reasonable man” standard for a claim of self-defense on behalf of a 5’4” woman attacked by a 6’2” man. In its opinion, the court faulted the “persistent use of the masculine gender” that left the impression that the measure for reasonableness was an altercation between two men. [*State v. Wanrow*, 599 P.2d 548, 558 (1977).]

Acknowledging the critical role that words play in the climate of courthouses and courtrooms, the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts wrote this pamphlet over twenty years ago. Its purpose was to suggest a

few simple rules that would help those who use the courts or work in the court system to avoid unintended slights or compromises to the ideal of equal justice.

The original edition of this pamphlet was a great success. In only slightly altered form, it has been in print and in use ever since. Over the years, court users and the general public have become increasingly comfortable with gender neutral language, so that some ideas in the pamphlet that were novel when first made seem natural now and many of the suggestions in the pamphlet have become mere reminders.

Whether suggestions or reminders, the simple rules in this pamphlet remain important as we continue to nudge our speech towards a fuller embrace of the idea of equality.

---

## A FEW SIMPLE RULES

**Use inclusive terms, rather than masculine forms.** Many forms of address exclude women. Good substitutes, however, are easy to find:

**USE** chair  
members of the jury  
colleagues

**AVOID** chairman  
gentlemen of the jury  
brethren

Designations for professionals or categories of workers often are a source of lingering problems. Job segregation has been a great barrier to women's equality, and using gendered terms has the effect of implying women still cannot hold certain jobs. Again, substitutes are now commonly used:

**USE** police officer  
fire fighter  
worker  
homemaker  
nurse  
executive  
journalists

representative  
Member of the Assembly  
Member of Congress  
Representative

**AVOID** policeman  
fireman  
workman  
housewife  
male nurse  
businessman  
gentlemen of the press  
spokesman  
Assemblyman  
Congressman

Expressions with the words *man* or *men* may be changed so that women too are included:

**USE** reasonable person  
artificial  
staff  
a one-person operation  
high ranking officials  
diplomacy

**AVOID** reasonable man  
man-made  
manpower  
one-man operation  
men in high places  
statesmanship

---

**Avoid using *he* as a generic pronoun.** *He* should not be used to refer to a group of people that may include men and women or an individual whose gender is unknown. To avoid the generic *he*, you might:

1. Use plural nouns. “Jurors must make their own assessments of the credibility of each witness,” may replace “A juror must make his own assessment of the credibility of each witness.”

2. Eliminate the pronoun altogether. For example, “A court clerk can give you advice on that form,” may replace “A court clerk can give you his advice on that form.”
3. Find a neutral article, such as **a** or **the**, to replace a gendered pronoun. “A judge may always make the ruling orally,” may replace “A judge may always make his ruling orally.”
4. Rearrange the sentence to use **who** as the pronoun. “A person who wants an adjournment should ask for it during the calendar call,” may replace “If someone wants an adjournment, he should ask for it during the calendar call.”
5. Replace the pronoun with a synonym. “You should find a court officer. That is the person who can help you,” may replace “You should find a court officer. He is the one who can help you.”
6. Substitute **he** or **she** for *he*. This may not be the most felicitous suggestion, but, if all else falls, it works. It is accurate, gender neutral, and doesn’t give offense to anyone.

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Use consistent forms of address. When no other title is appropriate, **Ms.** and **Mr.** are usually correct, not *Miss* or *Mrs.* and *Mr.* While *Miss* or *Mrs.* may be acceptable when a woman specifically asks for such a designation, in general, these forms should be avoided. Unlike *Mr.*, they gratuitously call attention to a person’s marital status.

Often, you can use exactly the same form of address for men and women by calling them by their professional titles. Of course, these titles should be used consistently for both men and women. All physicians are **Doctor** (not *Dr.* and *Ms.*), police personnel are **Officer** (not *Officer* and *Ma’am*), and lawyers are **Counselor** (not *Counselor* and *Ms.*).

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Use formal rather than informal forms of address. Using first names to refer to litigants and witnesses should be avoided not only because the informality is inappropriate but also because it is patronizing. The motives for calling someone

Maria or Beth may be habit on the part of a court official or an attempt by a woman's own lawyer to put her at ease. However, all litigants, including defendants in criminal cases, deserve a proper form of address, and the dignity conferred by the formal designation may do more to make a witness comfortable than the intimacy implied by the use of a first name.

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Altering speech habits may require conscious thought for a period of time, but change is part of any living language, and English, which is an unusually rich tongue, is still evolving. What was considered questionable usage a decade ago may be commonly accepted now. What feels awkward today may seem natural tomorrow. The term *chair*, now a preferred designation for the person in charge of a meeting, predates *chairman*, and grammarians settled on the use of *he* as a generic pronoun less than three hundred years ago.

The goal is worth the effort it takes to reach it. After all, as an essay by Wendy Martyna, a scholar studying language and gender, has suggested, when we change old habits of speech, we are doing nothing less than creating "a language that speaks more fairly and clearly of us all."

The New York State Judicial  
Committee on Women in the Courts  
March 2014

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### New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

- Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, *Chair* • Fern Schair, *Vice Chair* •
- Charlotte A. Watson, *Executive Director* • Hon. Rosalie Stoll Bailey •
- Maria Cortese, Esq. • Elizabeth Cronin • Hon. Matthew D'Emic •
- Hon. Bruna L. DiBiase • Jill Laurie Goodman, (*Former Counsel*) •
- Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix • Hon. Allen Hochberg • Hon. Deborah Kaplan •
- Hon. Judy Harris Kluger • Marjorie Lesch, Esq. • Caroline Levy, Esq. •
- Maria Logus, Esq. • Nancy Mangold • Hon. Renee Forgens Minarik •
- Hon. S. Michael Nadel • Hon. Juanita Bing Newton •
- Hon. Marilyn Hoffman O'Connor • Emily Ruben, Esq. •
- Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman • Hon. Toko Serita • Hon. Jeffrey Sunshine •
- Hon. John Sweeney, Jr. • Katherine G. Thompson, Esq. • Judith E. White, Esq. •
- Cheryl Zimmer, Esq. •



# Information about **LANGUAGE ACCESS IN THE COURTS**

**If you need an interpreter, the court will provide one to you at no cost.** This is a free service for people who use the courts.

The reverse side of this card provides information about the court interpreter's role, and what the interpreter can or cannot discuss with you.

If you have a question or concern about court interpreting services, alert the Judge, speak to the Clerk of the Court where the case is being heard, or contact the Office of Language Access:

## **OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS**

**NYS Unified Court System  
Office of Court Administration  
25 Beaver Street, 8th Floor,  
New York, New York 10004**

**PHONE:** (646) 386-5670

**EMAIL:** [courtinterpreter@nycourts.gov](mailto:courtinterpreter@nycourts.gov)

**[nycourts.gov/courtinterpreter](http://nycourts.gov/courtinterpreter)**



# USING A COURT INTERPRETER

- To help with communication during the court proceeding, you will be given an interpreter who speaks your language.
- The interpreter's job is to repeat to you in your language, everything that is said in English by the Judge or others in the court.
- The interpreter will also repeat anything that you say in your language, back into English.
- Nothing that is said will be changed or left out of this interpretation.
- The interpreter is not allowed to give you advice or have private conversations with you.
- The interpreter will not talk about your case with anybody outside the court.
- If something is not clear to you or if you have a question, raise your hand. The judge will answer your questions or concerns. Do not ask the interpreter directly for information or advice.

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

**Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair**

**Hon. Allen Hochberg, Vice-Chair**

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

Chair(s): *Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Supreme Court Justice, Chair; Hon. Allen Hochberg, Vice-Chair*

Members – *Attached*

Counties Served: *Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Rockland, Westchester*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *2/24/2015, 6/3/2015, 9/16/2015, and 11/18/2015*

Average Attendance: *20*

Do you use Videoconferencing? *Yes*

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? *Yes*

### **2015 Special Events**

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015:

*The Committee co-sponsored three CLE programs.*

- *"Domestic Violence and Gender Discrimination: The Legal Ins and Outs in Housing and Employment," was co-sponsored with The Pace Women's Justice Center, The Westchester Women's Bar Association and Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.*
- *"Human Trafficking: The Impact on Women, Children and Families," was co-sponsored with the Westchester Women's Bar Association.*
- *"Behind Closed Doors: Domestic Violence in Arab and Immigrant Communities," was co-sponsored with The Pace Women's Justice Center, The Westchester Women's Bar Association and Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.*

Activities for Women's History Month 2015:

*The Committee again sponsored its annual essay contest open to all high school students in the Ninth Judicial District.*

Essay Contest:

*The essay contest topic was:*

*Several large, national companies recently offered female employees a benefit that would mean that they could put off having children and taking maternity leave to focus on their careers. Do you think this is fair? Does this promote or hinder gender equality?*

*Local bar associations contributed to the monetary prizes for the essay contest, which were awarded at a breakfast reception held in the courthouse on May 1, 2015. The Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman participated in a ceremony honoring the winners of the contest.*

### **Special Event Marketing**

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

Who and how many attended? *Judges, attorneys, public officials, bar association officers, school personnel and family members of the contest winners were in attendance. Approximately 70 in all.*

Was there any press before or after? *Yes*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016?

Special Events & Educational Programs

*Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Essay Contest*

Meetings: *3 -4 Committee meetings (first one held on 1/13/2016)*

### **Concerns**

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016?

*Pro bono representation in matrimonial disputes*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Child care centers availability and accessibility*

Do you see unmet training needs? *Yes. Judicial education refresher trainings are needed.*

Please share any areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts?

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

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

Would online viewing or videoconferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real-time on your desktop computer? *Yes*

### **Collaboration**

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? If do, please list.

*Bar Associations, Colleges, Domestic Violence Organizations*

Is there anything else you would like to submit? *Yes, CLE Program Flyers are attached.*

**Members:**

Hon. Lester Adler, Justice of the Supreme Court  
Kim Berg, Esq., Gould & Berg, LLP  
Natanya L. Briendel, Esq., Pace Women's Justice Center  
Gary Brown, Assistant Attorney, General-in-Charge, New York State Dept. of Law  
Professor Jay Carlisle, Pace Law School  
Karen Cheeks Lomax, Esq., Executive Director, My Sisters' Place  
Robin D. Carton, Esq., Carton & Rosoff PC  
Hon. Jeffrey Cohen, Appellate Division, Second Dept.  
Hon. Kathie Davidson, Supervising Judge of the Family Courts  
Lisa Dorman, Esq., Chambers of Hon. John P. Colangelo  
Jerrice Duckette-Epps, Esq., Deputy Director Human Rights Commission  
Jody Fay, Esq., The Kelsey Company  
Dolores Gebhardt, Esq., McCarthy, Fingar, LLP  
Claire Gutekunst, Esq.  
Jacqueline Hattar, Esq., Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP  
Maria Imperial, Esq., CEO, YWCA White Plains  
Hon. Linda Jamieson, Justice of the Supreme Court  
Cindy Kanusher, Esq., Executive Director, Pace Women's Justice Center  
Julie Kattan, Esq., Tyre & DeThomas  
Susan W. Kaufman, Esq., Committee on Matrimonial Practice  
Mary Kelly, Esq.  
Milton Kreppel, Esq.  
Beth Levy, Esq., My Sisters' Place  
Nancy Mangold, District Executive, Administrative Judge's Office  
Hon. Robert Meehan, County Attorney Westchester County  
Keary Neary, Esq., Westchester County District Attorney's Office  
Karen R. Needleman, Esq., Legal Aid Society  
Jill Sandford, Esq.  
Hon. Thomas H. Scuccimarra, Judge, NYS Court of Claims  
Robi Schlaff, Director, Westchester Office for Women  
Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman, Administrative Judge, Ninth Judicial District  
Joanne Sirotkin, Esq., Legal Services of the Hudson Valley  
Hon. Mary Smith, Justice of the Supreme Court  
Hon. John W. Sweeny, Jr., Appellate Division, 1st Dept.  
Charlotte A. Watson, Executive Director, NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
Hon. Charles David Wood, Justice of the Supreme Court

**THE PACE WOMEN'S JUSTICE CENTER, THE WESTCHESTER  
WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION, THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE GENDER FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS  
AND LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY  
are pleased to host a CLE Program:**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION: THE LEGAL  
INS AND OUTS IN HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT**

**DATE:** October 22, 2015 RSVP by: October 15, 2015 to [nbriendel@law.pace.edu](mailto:nbriendel@law.pace.edu)

**PLACE:** Pace University School of Law – Tudor Room

**TIME:** Moderate Means Panel Meeting 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. (mandatory for members)

CLE Program 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (mandatory for MMP members)

**SPEAKERS:** Mark Fang, Esq., Executive Director Westchester County Human Rights Commission; Jerrice Duckette Epps, Esq., Deputy Director Westchester County Human Rights Commission; Alexandra Piscionere, Director of Fair Housing and Investigative Counsel Westchester County Human Rights Commission;  
**Moderator:** Natanya L. Briendel, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney Pace Women's Justice Center

**CLE:** Approval of CLE credit is in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 2 Practice credits. WBASNY is an accredited provider of CLE credits in New York.

**REGISTRATION:** [NBriendel@law.pace.edu](mailto:NBriendel@law.pace.edu)

**FEE:** \$30.00. The fee is waived for members in good standing of the Pace Women's Justice Center Moderate Means Panel. The Westchester Women's Bar Association is a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. Full and partial scholarships for this program, based on financial need, are available. For information and to apply, please contact WWBA President Robin Carton at 914-949-6700. All requests are confidential.

*This program is suitable for both experienced and newly admitted attorneys.*

*The opinions expressed by any program presenter are the presenter's own, and do not reflect the official position of the WWBA or WBASNY.*





## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE IMPACT ON WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Join us for an informative discussion about the effects of human trafficking on women, children and families in our community. The panelists will discuss the communities' role and response, and the creation of the Human Trafficking courts to assist the victims of human trafficking and their families, as well as important steps which can be taken to protect those in our communities. The WWBA's Litigation, Domestic Violence, Diversity and New Lawyers Committees are pleased to present this program, which is co-sponsored by the Ninth Judicial District's Committee on Gender Fairness in the Courts.

- Panelists:**
- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Hon. Sherry Heitler      | Justice, New York State Supreme Court,<br>New York County  |
| Phil Goldstein           | Director of Program Development<br>Westchester County Department of Social Services                                    |
| William Casey King, PhD. | Executive Director, Yale Center for Analytical Sciences Yale<br>University School of Public Health                     |
| Audrey E. Stone, Esq.    | Managing Director, Domestic Violence and<br>Sexual Assault Compliance & Investigations Practice<br>Nardello & co., LLC |
- Moderator:** Angela Morcone Giannini, Esq. Partner  
Clark Gagliardi & Miller, P.C.
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, November 4, 2015  
6:00 p.m. — 6:15 p.m. (registration)  
6:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. program
- Place:** BNY Mellon, 701 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601
- Charge:** \$30.00 for WWBA members, \$40.00 for non-members. Light supper will be served.
- RSVP:** By November 2<sup>nd</sup> to [Executivedirector@wwbany.org](mailto:Executivedirector@wwbany.org)  
Attendance is limited to WWBA members and their invited guests.

The opinions expressed by any program presenter are the presenter's own, and do not reflect the official position of the WWBA, or the Ninth Judicial District's Committee on Gender Fairness in the Courts.

Financial Hardship Scholarship: Full and partial scholarships for this program based on financial need are available. For information on the guidelines and to apply, please contact – Silvia Galgano, [executivedirector@wwbany.org](mailto:executivedirector@wwbany.org), P.O. Box 926, Hartsdale, New York 10530, (914) 347-3662.

2.0 CLE Credits – Pending Approval

**THE PACE WOMEN'S JUSTICE CENTER, THE WESTCHESTER  
WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION, THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE GENDER FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS  
AND LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY**

**are pleased to host a CLE Program:**

**Behind Closed Doors: Domestic Violence in Arab and Immigrant  
Communities**

**DATE:** May 14, 2015

**PLACE:** Pace University School of Law Moot Court Room

**TIME:** Moderate Means Panel Meeting 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. (members only)

Moderate Means CLE Program 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**SPEAKER:** Aisha Rahman, Esq., Executive Director, Karamah: Muslim  
Women Lawyers for Human Rights

**CLE:** Approval of CLE credit is in accordance with the requirements of the New York  
State Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 2 Practice credits.  
WBASNY is an accredited provider of CLE credits in New York.

**REGISTRATION:** [NBriendel@law.pace.edu](mailto:NBriendel@law.pace.edu)

**FEE:** \$30.00. The fee is waived for members in good standing of the Pace  
Women's Justice Center Moderate Means Panel. The Westchester Women's  
Bar Association is a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of  
New York. Full and partial scholarships for this program, based on financial  
need, are available. For information and to apply, please contact WWBA  
President Lucia Chiochio at 914-716-1300. All requests are confidential.

*This program is suitable for both experienced and newly admitted attorneys.*

*The opinions expressed by any program presenter are the presenter's own, and do not  
reflect the official position of the WWBA or WBASNY.*



## GENDER FAIRNESS ESSAY CONTEST 2015

# Gender Fairness Committee Celebrates Women's History Month

By Suzy I. Hickson, Esq.



From left: Valerie Cimino, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Ethan Z. McCullough and Jonah Pfeifer.

THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts recognized the winners of its Annual High School Essay Contest at a breakfast held on May 1, 2015, 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.

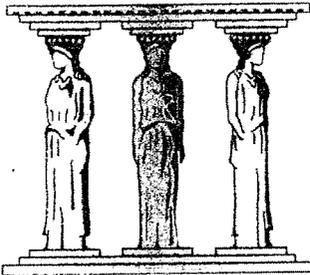
In the freshman/sophomore category, Yurong Zhang, from The Master's School, won first prize and Ethan Z. McCullough from Spring Valley High School won second prize. In the junior/senior category, Valerie Cimino from Maria Regina High School won first prize and Jonah Pfeifer from Yonkers High School won second prize.

The students read their essays to the more than 60 assembled guests. Those in attendance included Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, Jeffrey Cohen; State Supreme Court Justices Lawrence Ecker, Paul Marx, Mary Smith and Charles

Wood; and former Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District Francis Nicolai. Also in attendance were representatives of various 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.

**SUZY I. HICKSON, ESQ.**, has served as the Law Clerk to the Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Judge of the Court of Claims, White Plains District, since 1995.



# WWBA news

Westchester Women's Bar Association

JUNE 2015

www.wwbany.org

## Gender Fairness Committee Celebrates Women's History Month

Suzy I. Hickson, Law Clerk to  
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman

The Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts recognized the winners of its Annual High School Essay Contest at a breakfast held on May 1, 2015 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 Women's Bar Association and the Westchester Women's Bar Foundation, enabled the committee to award cash prizes to the students.

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Hon. Jeffrey Cohen, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Robin D. Carton, Lucia Chiochio



Valerie Cimino, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Ethan Z. McCullough, Jonah Pfeifer

ond prize. In the junior/senior category, Valerie Cimino from Maria Regina High School won first prize and Jonah Pfeifer from Yonkers High School won second prize. The essay topic was: "Several large, national companies recently offered female employees a benefit that would mean that they could put off having children and taking maternity leave to focus on their careers. Do you think this is fair? Does this promote or hinder gender equality?"

The students read their essays to the more than 60 assembled guests. Those in attendance included Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, Jeffrey Cohen; State Supreme Court Justices Lawrence Ecker, Paul Marx, Mary Smith and Charles Wood; and former Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District Francis

continued on page 11

## Women's History Month

from page 9

Nicolai. Also in attendance were representatives of various professional organizations and bar associations including President Lucia Chiochio and President-Elect Robin D. Carton from the Westchester Women's Bar Association.

The committee anticipates that this contest and awards breakfast will become an annual event, and expect even greater district participation in the future. ▀

*Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts*

**Hon. Isabel Buse, Chair**

**Beverly Saldivias, Chair**

## **Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts**

Chair(s): *Hon. Isabel Buse, Family Court Support Magistrate; Beverly Saldivias, Senior Court Clerk, Supreme Court*

Members – *Attached*

Counties Served: *Suffolk*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *06-16-15, 09-09-15, 11-17-15*

Average Attendance: *18 - 27*

Do you use Videoconferencing? *Yes*

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? *No*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *The Suffolk County Judicial Women in the Courts Committee's greatest success in 2015 was our Women's History Month event and our Domestic Violence Awareness program.*

- *Our history celebration on March 20, 2015, celebrated women whose stories have been woven into the fabric of our nation's history. The keynote speaker was the Hon. Sandra L Sgroi, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, who related the importance of female role models. She related the historical importance of Sacagawea. Students from the Oregon Middle School shared their writings on role models. Our Lady of the Hamptons Catholic Regional School provided the music. The Hon. Isabel Buse served as chair of the event.*
- *On October 23, 2015 we ran a continuing legal education program on Enhancing Domestic Violence Skills. Our speaker was the Hon. Andrew Crecca, Presiding Judge of the Integrated Domestic Violence Part. The coordinators of the event were the Hon Gaetan Lozito, and Kaitlyn Pickford.*

### **2015 Special Events**

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015: *A continuing legal education lecture was held on October 23, 2015. We have a standing sub-committee dedicated to raising awareness about Domestic Violence. About 80 people attended our event.*

Activities for Women's History Month 2015: *A history month celebration was held on March 20, 2015 with the focus on role models. About 100 people attended our event. Our standing committee on Women's History Month has a program scheduled for March 18, 2016.*

Essay Contest: *We did not host an essay contest in 2015. Our history month celebration on March 18 2016 will feature an essay contest celebrating women in government and public service.*

Other Special Events or Activities in 2015:

- *The Breast Cancer Screening Van provided free screenings on October 2, 2015 in Central Islip. Members of the committee provided literature about breast cancer to members of the public on October 14, 2015 to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Janessa Trotto Esq. and Brette Haefeli Esq. coordinated the event.*
- *Free heart health screenings were provided on February 4 2015 from the St. Francis Mobile at Central Islip, J P Cohalan Court Complex. Beverly Saldivias coordinated the event.*
- *Our Committee continues to support our Children's Center. Activities included our Bagels and Books Breakfasts, and the collection of food, mittens, gloves and hats to benefit the families who visit our Children's Center. Cheryl Zimmer and Sue Fox have coordinated the events.*

### **Special Event Marketing**

How were your special events advertised or marketed? *Email, Mail, Flyer, distribution of literature by local bar associations*

Who and how many attended? *Attendance at History Month was over 100. Attendance at Domestic Violence Awareness Month was about 80.*

Was there any press before or after? *Yes*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016?

Special Events & Educational Programs

*Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Essay Contest, and More:*

- *Our committee was expanded in the fall of 2015. As a result, we have added new subcommittees which include: Access to Justice, Mental Health and Prostate Health.*
- *In addition, we have converted our timeline and photographs of all of the appointed and elected female judges, village justices and support magistrates into a digital display which will make its debut March 2016.*
- *We will continue with Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Breast Screening and Heart Health Month activities.*

Meetings: *Bi monthly for 2016 -2017 term.*

## Concerns

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016?  
*Continuing issues, life work balance, child care center, and women's health issues.*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Child care centers availability and accessibility*

Do you see unmet training needs? *Possibly assistance with mental health issues, and domestic violence issues. We have received support from the Judicial Institute, Judge Crecca on domestic violence issues, and the District Administrative Judge's Office.*

## Educational Programs and Projects

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

Would online viewing or videoconferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real-time on your desktop computer? *Yes*

## Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? *Yes*  
*Bar Associations, Schools, Domestic Violence Organizations*

Is there anything else you would like to submit? *Yes, CLE Program Flyers are attached.*

## Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee

### Membership List

Aletha Fields	Suffolk County Support Magistrate
Anita Prudenti	Supreme Court Law Clerk
Beverly Saldivias	Supreme Court Associate Court Clerk
Brette A. Haefeli	Surrogate Court Senior Law Clerk
Lisa Jusino Calla	Private Practice Attorney
Caren Loguercio	Family Court/Acting Supreme Justice
Caroline Levy	Attorney/NYS Women in Courts Committee
Cheryl Joseph	Suffolk County Supreme Court Justice
Cheryl Zimmer	Chief Ct Atty/NYC Women in Courts Committee
Chris Kelley	Suffolk County District Court Judge
Nancy Clifford	Deputy Chief Major Crime Bureau SCDA's Office
Colleen M. Fondulis	Suffolk County Court Attorney Referee
Carrie Vasiluth	Staff Attorney/Nassau Suffolk Law Services
Darlene Jorif-Mangane	Suffolk County Support Magistrate
David Juan	Suffolk County Probation Officer
Dawn Hargraves	Attorney/President of the SC Matrimonial Bar
Dawn Maletta	Deputy Chief Suffolk County Family Court
Debra Hampson	Principal Secretary to Administrative Justice
Deborah Kooperstein	Southampton Town Judge
Deborah Poulis	Suffolk County Family Court Judge
Diane Farrell	Suffolk County Principal Law Clerk
Patrice Dlhopsky	Director of Suffolk County Dept. of Probation
Eileen Mallon	Suffolk County Court Office Major
Elizabeth Harrington	Private Practice Attorney
Frederick Crockett	Suffolk County Court Clerk Specialist
Gaetan B. Lozito	Suffolk County District Court Judge/Acting County
Keri Herzog	Deputy Bureau Chief SCDA's Office
Sandra Sgroi	Associate Justice Appellate Division 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dept.
Hertha Trotto	Retired Suffolk County District Court Judge
Isabel Buse	Suffolk County Support Magistrate
Jane LaCova	Ex. Director Suffolk County Bar Association
Janet Ford	Suffolk County Principal Law Clerk
Janine Barbera-Dalli	Suffolk County District Court Judge
Janessa Trotto	Private Practice Attorney
Kaitlyn Pickford	Suffolk County Assistant Court Analyst
Karen Kerr	Supervising Judge Suffolk County District Court
Karen Morro	Suffolk County Court Officer Lieutenant
Karen Wilutis	Suffolk County District Court Judge
Katherine T. Logiudice	Suffolk County Secretary to Judge
Kathleen Meyer	Suffolk County Secretary to Judge

Kathryn Coward	Suffolk County Support Magistrate
Laurie Hulbert	Director of Advocacy SC Victim Info. Bureau
Leslie D. McLoughlin	Suffolk County Resource Coordinator III
Linda Kevins	Suffolk County District Court Judge
Madie Jerry	Retired District Court Judge
Margaret Trainor	Attorney Suffolk County Legal Aid Society
Marian Tinari	Suffolk County District Court Judge
Martha M. Rogers	Suffolk County Principal Law Clerk
Mary Ann Filosa	Suffolk County Principal Law Clerk
Maureen Hordy	Suffolk County Resource Coordinator III
Melissa Negin-Wiener	President Suffolk County Women's Bar Assoc.
Meidith Lafler	Suffolk County Support Magistrate
Mary Werner	Retired Supreme Court Justice
Laurette Mulry	Deputy Attorney Suffolk County Legal Aid Society
Patricia DePasquale	Suffolk County Associate Court Clerk
Patricia Filiberto	Former Acting Suff County Supreme Court Justice
Andrea Ramos-Topper	EAC Regional Director of Suffolk County
Rosanne Orlando	Suffolk County Court Attorney Referee
Tara Scully	Private Practice Attorney
Sheryl Randazzo	Private Practice Attorney
Kim Smith	Private Practice Attorney
Sue Fox	Suffolk County Associate Court Clerk
Theresa Bryant Whelan	Suffolk County Family Court Judge
Toni A. Bean	Suffolk County District Court Judge
Cynthia Vargas	Private Practice Attorney
Victoria McDonough	Suffolk County Resource Coordinator III
Mary Porter	Suffolk County Principal Law Secretary



**Women's History Month celebrated with Our Lady of the Hamptons students who provided inspirational music**



**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

# **“Enhancing Lawyering Skills in Domestic Violence Cases”**

A Free CLE Program

Sponsored by  
Suffolk County District Administrative Judge  
C. Randall Hinrichs’  
Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

**Friday, October 23, 2015**  
**12:30 PM – 2:00 PM**

Central Jury Room  
John P. Cohalan, Jr. Court Complex  
Central Islip

## HON. ANDREW A. CRECCA

Andrew A. Crecca is the Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial Parts in the Tenth Judicial District, Suffolk County, New York. In addition to his duties as Supervising Judge, he is the presiding Justice of Suffolk County's Integrated Domestic Violence Court, and has served in that position since January of 2007. He was first elected to the bench in 2004 as a County Court Judge and presided over felony criminal cases in a dedicated trial part. In January of 2007 he was appointed an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court. In 2010 he was elected Justice of the New York State Supreme Court for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Prior to his time on the bench Justice Crecca served as a County Legislator, and maintained a private law practice concentrating in matrimonial and family law. He also served as an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's office from 1989 to 1994. He received his undergraduate degree from Marist College in 1986, and his law degree from St. John's University School of Law in 1989.

Justice Crecca has lectured throughout the United States and internationally on domestic violence issues, problem solving courts, matrimonial and family law, as well as on court operations. He serves as a faculty member to the *National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence*, the *New York State Judicial Institute*, the *National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges*, the *Suffolk Academy of Law*, and as an Adjunct Professor at *Touro Law School*. He has also held the position of Adjunct Assistant Professor of political science at *Hofstra University*.

As an active member of the *Suffolk County Bar Association*, Justice Crecca serves as Co-Chair of its Law Student Committee and has served on its Board of Directors and as chair of the Bench Bar Committee. In 2011 Justice Crecca was appointed and continues to serve as a member of the Chief Administrative Judge's *Matrimonial Practice Advisory & Rules Committee* for New York State.

Justice Crecca is also a member of the *Alexander Hamilton American Inn of Court*, the *National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges*, the *New York State Association of Supreme Court Justices* and the *Suffolk County Matrimonial Bar Association*.

In addition to his judicial duties, Justice Crecca has contributed to the community through participation in not-for-profit organizations such as the *Hauppauge Youth Organization*, the *Cleary School for the Deaf*, and other charitable organizations.

Justice Crecca lives on Long Island with his wife Donna and their two boys.

# Enhancing Lawyering Skills in Domestic Violence Cases

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

Friday, October 23, 2015

## CURRICULUM OUTLINE

1. Defining Domestic Violence
2. Understanding Victim & Batterer Behavior
  - A. Batterer Behavior
  - B. The Importance of Context
  - C. Victim Behavior
3. Impact of Violence on Adult Victims
  - A. Needs of Battered Women
  - B. Impact of Violence on Children
4. Getting the Right Information
5. Dangerousness/Lethality Assessment Discussion
6. Strangulation
7. Stalking
8. Orders of Protection
  - A. Effective Orders
  - B. Dismissing Orders of Protection
9. Wrap Up and Conclusion

## Table of Contents

Power and Control Wheel.....	Page 1
Perpetrators' Abusive Tactics.....	Page 2
Rules of Men Who Batter.....	Page 6
Understanding the Victim.....	Page 9
The Impact of Violence on Children.....	Page 16
Potential Impacts of Domestic Violence at Different Developmental Stages.....	Page 33
Assessing Whether Batterers Kill.....	Page 38
Danger Assessment.....	Page 41
Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Bench Guide.....	Page 42
Stalking Victimization in the United States.....	Page 44
The Role of Protection Orders in Combating Domestic Violence.....	Page 60
Orders of Protection (In Supreme Court & Family Court).....	Page 62

All material is reprinted with the permission of the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence and the National Council of Family Court and Juvenile Judges.

***For the full CLE handout, please contact the chairs of the Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts Committee.***

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

**Hon. Richard Lee Price, Chair**

**Hon. Josephine Bastone, Vice-Chair**

## **Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District**

Chair(s): *Justice Richard Lee Price, Supreme Court Bronx County Criminal Term;*

*Co-Chair Honorable Josephine M. Bastone*

Members – *Attached*

Counties Served: *Bronx*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *1/21/15, 3/6/15, 6/3/15, 7/31/15. 11/9/15 (\*Note: We also held various subcommittee meetings during the course of the year to set up programs such as Women's History Month and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, etc;).*

Average Attendance: *10 - 15*

Do you use Videoconferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? *No*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *Our distinct and active array of programs, specifically their connection to the greater community at large.*

### **2015 Special Events**

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015: *Our presenter at the event was the Honorable Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals who spoke on Title IX. (See flyer and e-mail description annexed hereto.)*

Activities for Women's History Month 2015: *The Gender Fairness Committee of the 12th Judicial District sponsored its sixteenth annual Women's History Month program on Friday, April 17, 2015. Held in the Rotunda of the Bronx County Building, the event had approximately 150 people in attendance. This year we honored NBC News Anchor Darlene Rodriguez. In addition, the EVOLVE award was given to two promising high school girls. Six hardworking court employees were named Women of Distinction.*

Other Special Events or Activities in 2015: *Various. Please see attached.*

### **Special Event Marketing**

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

Who and how many attended? *Events ranging from 10 people in attendance to 150 people. Please See attached.*

Was there any press before or after? *Yes*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016? *Bi-Monthly Meetings with various subcommittee and special project meetings in between.*

### **Concerns**

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016? *Understanding and sensitivity must continue.*

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? *Co-chair, Hon. Josephine M. Bastone is the MCLE liaison to the Judicial Institute from the Bronx County Courts. Video-simulcasts of Judicial Institute lectures are offered throughout the year, as well as the occasional live lecture sponsored by the Gender Fairness Committee or put on by some of the court personnel. Suggestions for future lectures include: Updates on the prosecution of domestic violence cases, the impact of cultural differences on the treatment of women in the United States, trafficking, foreclosure issues, etc.*

Would online viewing or videoconferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*  
Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real-time on your desktop computer? *Yes*

### **Collaboration**

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

Is there anything else you would like to submit? *Yes, attached.*

Supreme Court  
Of the  
State of New York

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



265 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street, 934  
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT E. TORRES  
Administrative Judge - Criminal Term

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
Chair

851 Grand Concourse, 6M12-B  
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON  
Administrative Judge - Civil Term

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE  
Vice-Chair

**Committee Members 2016**

Honorable Richard Lee Price, Chair  
Honorable Josephine M. Bastone, Co-Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Sharon Aarons  
Barbara Anel  
Tania Antero  
Laura Bisignano  
Yvette Brownridge  
Carol Brumley  
Sherry Callwood  
Lisa Carrasquillo  
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Terri J. Roman  
Laurie E. Rosen  
Lorraine Venturella

**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 16<sup>th</sup> annual awards program on Friday, April 17, 2015, from 12:45 to 2:30 p.m., in the Veteran's Memorial Hall of the Bronx County Building, at 161<sup>st</sup> Street and the Grand Concourse.

**This year Darlene Rodriguez, NBC News Anchor**, will receive our *Woman of Achievement Award*, and six *Women of Distinction* certificates will be given to court system employees who have impressed the Committee by their job performance or because they have overcome odds with supreme grace.

We also recognize outstanding female high school students who have demonstrated a unique ability to rise above daunting circumstances in their lives. Two such students will receive the *EVOLVE Award* this year.

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, the Probation Department, and each of the various courts in the Bronx. The Committee was created 23 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 in 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 Courts;  
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; Ms. 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 the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, the Bronx County Bar Association, and the 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 Justice, United States Supreme Court; Ms. 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, Bronx County Bar Association; Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, former 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, Ret., NYS Court of Appeals; Jewel Williams, Chief, Department of Public Safety, NYS Unified Court System; Ms. Irene Cornell, Reporter, CBS Radio; the Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson, Administrative Judge, NYC Family Court; Ms. Rachel Lloyd, Executive Director, GEMS: Girls Educational and Mentoring Services; the Hon. La Tia W. Martin, Supervising Judge - Matrimonial Division, Bronx County; Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, President, NAACP, New York State Conference; Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, Chief Administrative Judge, of the New York State Courts; Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, First Judicial District, New York State Supreme Court; and Katherine D. LaGuardia, MD, MPH, Chair & Co-Founder, Fiorello H. LaGuardia Foundation.

The court community and the public are invited.

4/10/15

THE BRONX COUNTY  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

&

THE BRONX WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION



HONORABLE DOUGLAS E. MCKEON  
*ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE - CIVIL TERM*  
HONORABLE ROBERT E. TORRES  
*ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE - CRIMINAL TERM*

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

Present

# Women's History Month

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

12:45 TO 2:30 P.M.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT

851 Grand Concourse

Bronx, New York

## Woman of Achievement

*Darlene Rodriguez*  
*NBC News Anchor*

&

"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)618-1311  
Emily Sanchez (718) 618-3661 or Bonnie Schnapper (718) 618-3646

State of New York  
Unified Court System



## Women's History Month Program Committee Members

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

*Josephine M. Bastone, Esq. - Chair*  
*Ms. Emily Sanchez, Co-Chair*  
*Hon. Sharon Arons*  
*Ms. Tania Antero*  
*Ms. Carol Brumley-McManus*  
*Ms. Laura Bisignano*  
*Ms. Joan Clodd*  
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*Hon. Tracy Pardo*  
*Charlene Pulakas, Esq.*  
*Hon. Gayle Roberts*  
*Laurie E. Rosen, Esq.*  
*Ms. Bonnie Schnapper*

## THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON  
Administrative Judge - Civil Term  
HON. ROBERT E. TORRES  
Administrative Judge - Criminal Term

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

In Cooperation with

The Bronx Women's Bar Association  
VERONICA H. MANDEL, PRESIDENT

*proudly presents*

# Women's History Month

Program

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015 - 12:45 TO 2:30 P.M.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT  
851 GRAND CONCOURSE  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

## PROGRAM CO-SPONSORS

161st Street Merchants' Assoc., Inc. · ASSC Reporters Within NYC · Black Bar Association of Bronx County · Bronx Borough President · Bronx County Bar Association · Bronx County Clerk · The Columbia Society, Inc. · Court Deli (NPK Donut, Inc.) · Crown Donuts · Derek Photographers · D & J Variety · F.K. Exotic Gourmet Food Corp. · The Guardians Association of New York State Courts · Left Prescription (Bronx Prescription Center South) · Loria Corporation · Law Related Education Committee · New York County Lawyers' Association · New York State Court Officers Association · 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. · Twin Donuts · Yankee Tavern

## 2015 Women's History Month

### INVOCATION

Darlene Dove-Malavé

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

CO Jessica Peña

### OPENING REMARKS

Hon. Douglas E. McKeon - Civil Term

Hon. Robert E. Torres - Criminal Term

☪

### MODERATOR

Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.

☪

## 2015 Woman of Achievement

*Darlene Rodriguez*

*NBC News Anchor*

☪

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

Sherece Laine - Truman High School

Yessenia Saavedra - Truman High School

☪

## “WOMEN OF DISTINCTION”

### CERTIFICATES

**Yvette Brownridge**

**Carol Brumley-McManus**

**Yanira Gonzalez**

**Beth Pagan**

**CO Jessica Peña**

**Barb Walsh**

☪

### CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Richard Lee Price

☪

Supreme Court  
Of the  
State of New York

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



265 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street, 934  
Bronx, New York 10451

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Vice-Chair

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Lorraine Venturella

TO:

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FROM:

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

DATE:

FEBRUARY 24, 2016

RE:

APRIL 17, 2015 PROGRAM

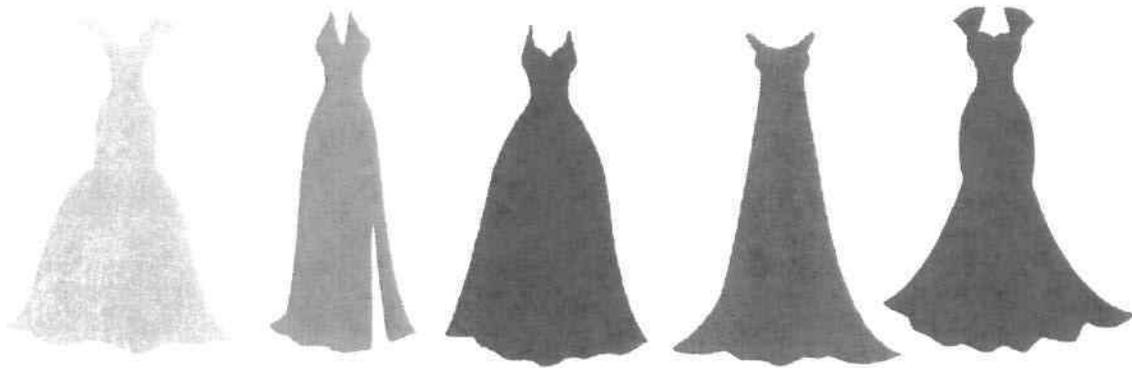
The Gender Fairness Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District sponsored its sixteenth annual Women's History Month program on Friday, April 17, 2015. Held in the Rotunda of the Bronx County Building, the event had approximately 150 people in attendance.

This year we honoured NBC News Anchor Darlene Rodriguez. In addition, the EVOLVE award was given to two promising high school girls. Six hardworking court employees were named Women of Distinction.

As always, we had a tremendous amount of assistance from subcommittee members, administrative judges and their staff, and from a number of non-committee court employees.



Department of  
Probation



The  
Fairy Godmother  
Initiative

The logo for the Fairy Godmother Initiative features a wand with a starburst of light above it, positioned above the text. The word "The" is in a small, cursive font above "Fairy Godmother", which is written in a large, elegant cursive script. The word "Initiative" is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below the cursive text.

South Bronx NeON  
198 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street  
Bronx, NY

Saturday  
May 2, 2015  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

To RSVP log onto [www.ctpromdress.com](http://www.ctpromdress.com)

*In sponsorship with: Birchbox, Group 868 Inc. New York Dress,  
Adrienne's Bridal Shop, Bronx County Gender Fairness Community*

# *THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY, INC.*

*Josephine M. Bastone, President*

**TO: HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT**

**FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE  
PRESIDENT - THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY  
CO-CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup>  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**DATE: JUNE 22, 2015**

**RE: ONE-ON-ONE RETIREMENT CONSULTATIONS**

Apparently for the first time EVER, one-on-one retirement consultations, arranged for by The Columbia Society, Inc. and the Health, Retirement, and Welfare subcommittee of the Gender Fairness Committee for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, were held on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in the Bronx County Courts. Taking part in these 3 days of consultations were employees from Bronx Supreme – Civil, Bronx Supreme – Criminal, Bronx Civil, Bronx Criminal, and Bronx Family Courts. Thirty-nine employees were seen. Two days of consultations took place at the (Bronx Supreme Court)/County Building, and one day at the Hall of Justice.

On June 16, 2015, Tom Pohl conducted the consultations, and on June 17 and 18, 2015, Belinda Cutright did so; both are from the NYS Comptroller's Office. From the comments received from those participating, both were highly knowledgeable and informative.

As the number of people requesting consultations was overwhelming, an additional three days has been set for September 22, 23, and 24, 2015, and another three days for October 6, 7, and 8, 2015. Even with these additional six days, not all those seeking appointments can be accommodated. Appointments were scheduled on an as-received basis, assuming the eligibility criteria (at least 50 years of age and within 5 years of retirement) was met. In addition to employees from the courts listed above, workers from Bronx Surrogate and Bronx Housing Courts, along with one individual from the County Clerk's Office, will be seen.

If all goes well with this year's schedule of consultations, I hope to make this program available again on a yearly basis.

# *THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY, INC.*

*Josephine M. Bastone, President*

**TO: HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT**

**FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE  
PRESIDENT - THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY  
CO-CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup>  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2015**

**RE: ONE-ON-ONE RETIREMENT CONSULTATIONS**

One-on-one retirement consultations, arranged for by The Columbia Society, Inc. and the Health, Retirement, and Welfare subcommittee of the Gender Fairness Committee for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, were held on September 22, 23, and 24, 2015, in the Bronx County Courts. Taking part in these 3 days of consultations were employees from Bronx Supreme – Civil, Bronx Supreme – Criminal, Bronx Civil, Bronx Surrogate, Bronx Criminal, Bronx Family Courts, and Bronx County Clerk’s Office. Thirty-nine employees were seen. Two days of consultations took place at the (Bronx Supreme Court)/County Building, and one day at the Hall of Justice.

On September 22, 2015, Belinda Cutright conducted the consultations, and on September 23 and 24, 2015, Gary Bosko did so; both are from the NYS Comptroller’s Office. From the comments received from those participating, both were highly knowledgeable and informative.

An initial 3 days of consultations took place in June 2015. As the number of people requesting consultations was overwhelming, the September dates were added and an additional three days has been set for October 6, 7, and 8, 2015. Even with these additional days, not all those seeking appointments can be accommodated. Appointments were scheduled on an as-received basis, assuming the eligibility criteria (at least 50 years of age and within 5 years of retirement) was met. In addition to employees from the courts listed above, workers from Bronx Housing Court, will be seen.

If all goes well with this year’s schedule of consultations, I hope to make this program available again on a yearly basis.

# *THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY, INC.*

*Josephine M. Bastone, President*

**TO: HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT**

**FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE  
PRESIDENT - THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY  
CO-CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup>  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2015**

**RE: ONE-ON-ONE RETIREMENT CONSULTATIONS**

The third 3-day run of one-on-one retirement consultations, arranged for by The Columbia Society, Inc. and the Health, Retirement, and Welfare subcommittee of the Gender Fairness Committee for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, were held on October 6, 7, and 8, 2015, in the Bronx County Courts. Taking part in these 3 days of consultations were employees from Bronx Supreme – Civil, Bronx Supreme – Criminal, Bronx Civil, Bronx Surrogate, Bronx Criminal, Bronx Family, and Bronx Housing Courts. Thirty-nine employees were seen. One day of consultations took place at the (Bronx Supreme Court)/County Building, one day at the Hall of Justice, and one day at Housing court.

Brian Sullivan conducted the consultations; he is from the NYS Comptroller's Office. From the comments received from those participating, he was found to be highly knowledgeable and informative.

An initial 3 days of consultations took place in June 2015, with another 3 days in September 2015. As the number of people requesting consultations was overwhelming, the October dates were added. Even with these additional days, not all those seeking appointments can be accommodated. Appointments were scheduled on an as-received basis, assuming the eligibility criteria (at least 50 years of age and within 5 years of retirement) was met.

This is the first year such consultations have been conducted in Bronx County. I hope to make this program available again on a yearly basis.

Supreme Court  
Of the  
State of New York



265 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street, 934  
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT E. TORRES  
Administrative Judge - Criminal Term

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
Chair

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

851 Grand Concourse, 6M12-B  
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON  
Administrative Judge - Civil Term

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE  
Vice-Chair

In recognition of

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**

Sponsored by

**THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

The Bronx Women's Bar Association  
&  
Legacy Volleyball Club

**"WORKPLACE EDUCATION DAY"**

**Thursday, November 12, 2015**

**12:45 to 2:30 P.M.**

**Bronx County Hall of Justice**  
**265 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**Assembly Room 691**

**PRESENTER**

**HON. JENNY RIVERA**  
**Associate Judge, NYS Court of Appeals**  
**Speaking on Title IX**

**"PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN"**

**"THE HUNTING GROUND,"  
A DOCUMENTARY ON THE DATE RAPE PHENOMENON  
WILL BE SHOWN**

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**

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

**APPROVED  
MICHELLE FOGGIE  
CHIEF CLERK**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Hon. Sharon Aarons  
Barbara Anel  
Tania Antero  
Laura Bisignano  
Yvette Brownridge  
Carol Bramley  
Sherry Callwood  
Lisa Carrasquillo  
Shantel Castro  
Joan Cludd  
Bonnie Cohen-Gallet  
Maria Cortese  
Hon. Tandra Dawson  
Betty Dominice  
Darlene Dove  
Monica Dula  
Sherron Durham  
Michelle Foggie  
Hon. Daris M. Gonzalez  
Hon. Aurelia Greene  
Hon. Wilma Guzman  
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn  
Esther Kelly  
Capt. Holly Kenn  
Sheryl Konigsberg  
Hon. Sue Levy  
Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman  
Eileen Malunowicz  
Robyn Mar  
Hon. La Tia W. Martin  
Marisol Martinez-Alonso  
Catherine Mercorella  
Hon. Shari R. Michels  
Deidra Moore  
Major Ostacio Negrón  
Hon. Barbara Newman  
Bernadette O'Rourke  
Tracy Pardo  
Sandra Prowley  
Charlene Pulakos  
Lorraine Ramsey  
Hon. Gayle P. Roberts  
Anthony Robinson  
Major Jose Rodriguez  
Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick  
Terri J. Roman  
Laurie E. Rosen  
Emily Sanchez  
Bonnie Schnapper  
Lorraine Venturella  
Caren Yukelson

Supreme Court  
Of the  
State of New York

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



265 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street, 934  
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT E. TORRES  
Administrative Judge - Criminal Term

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
Chair

851 Grand Concourse, 6M12-B  
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON  
Administrative Judge - Civil Term

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE  
Vice-Chair

*In recognition of*

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE,  
THE BRONX WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION  
&  
LEGACY VOLLEYBALL CLUB  
present the annual program for

*"Workplace Education Day"*

Thursday, November 12, 2015  
12:45 to 2:30 p.m.  
Bronx County Hall of Justice  
Assembly Room 691

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Hon. Sharon Aarons  
Barbara Anel  
Tania Antero  
Laura Bisignano  
Yvette Brownridge  
Carol Brumley  
Sherry Callwood  
Lisa Carrasquillo  
Shantel Castro  
Joan Clodd  
Bonnie Cohen-Gallet  
Msria Cortese  
Hon. Tandra Dawson  
Betty Dominici  
Darlene Duva  
Monica Dula  
Shevron Durham  
Michelle Foggie  
Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez  
Hon. Aurelia Greene  
Hon. Wilma Guzman  
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn  
Esther Kelly  
Capt. Holly Kenn  
Sheryl Konigsberg  
Hon. Sue Levy  
Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman  
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Anthony Robinson  
Major Jose Rodriguez  
Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick  
Terri J. Roman  
Laurie E. Rosen  
Emily Sanchez  
Bonnie Schnapper  
Lorraine Ventirella

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

WELCOME:..... HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE - CIVIL TERM  
HON. ROBERT TORRES  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE - CRIMINAL TERM

**"PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN"**

Moderator:..... HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ

MOVIE:..... "THE HUNTING GROUND" - PART 1

DISCUSSION ON "TITLE IX"  
HON. JENNY RIVERA

Associate Judge, NYS Court of Appeals

MOVIE:..... "THE HUNTING GROUND" - PART 2

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 Surrogate Court \*Court Deli \*Hispanic Court Officers Society  
\*Left Prescription (Bronx Prescription Center South) \*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

Supreme Court  
Of the  
State of New York

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



265 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street, 934  
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT TORRES  
Administrative Judge

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE  
Chair

851 Grand Concourse, 6M12-B  
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON  
Administrative Judge

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE  
Vice-Chair

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

FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, CO-CHAIR  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2015

RE: NOVEMBER 12, 2015 PROGRAM

The Gender Fairness Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, in conjunction with The Bronx Women's Bar Association and Legacy Volleyball Club, sponsored its annual Domestic Violence Workplace Education Day program, entitled "Protecting Our Children" on Thursday, November 12, 2015, in Assembly Room 691 of the Bronx Hall of Justice.

Opening remarks were given by Josephine M. Bastone, Supervising Referee, Mortgage Foreclosure Conference Part, and J. Richard Lee Price, Supreme Court Justice. J. Robert Torres, Administrative Judge, Criminal Term, gave welcoming remarks. J. Doris Gonzalez served as moderator. Our speaker this year was Hon. Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge, NYS Court of Appeals, who spoke on Title IX. The film, "The Hunting Ground", a documentary on the date rape phenomenon, was shown.

In addition to those mentioned, supra, committee members Carol Brumley, Joan Clodd, Elix Madera-Fliegelman, Darlene Dove-Malave, Michelle Foggie, Shari Michels, Emily Sanchez, and Bonnie Schnapper were instrumental in the planning and conducting of the program. Janet Poppoly kindly provided a vegan table.

**THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY, INC.  
&  
THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12TH  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**“WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CAREGIVING,  
MEDICAID AND HOMECARE”**

**Monday, November 30, 2015**

**12:45 – 2:00 P.M.**

**Bronx Supreme Court  
851 Grand Concourse - Room 600**

**PRESENTERS:**

**TAMARIS PRINZI**, Director of Senior and Community Services,  
Westchester Independent Living: **“ADVOCATING FOR PATIENTS  
IN NURSING HOMES”**

**LOREN GILBURG**, RN, BSW, MBA, CMC, Elder Care Corporation:  
**“THE ROLE OF A GERIATRIC CARE MANAGER”**

**COLIN SANDLER**, LCSW, Medicaid Solutions: **“HOW TO  
QUALIFY FOR MEDICAID WHILE REMAINING AT HOME”**

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to:  
Josephine M. Bastone @ (718) 618 – 1344  
Laura Bisignano @ (718) 618 – 1601  
Bonnie Schnapper @ (718) 618 – 3646

**FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR LUNCH!**

**APPROVED  
MICHELLE FOGGIE  
CHIEF CLERK**

**APPROVED  
TRACY PARDO  
CHIEF CLERK**

# *THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY, INC.*

*Josephine M. Bastone, President*

**TO: HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT**

**FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE  
PRESIDENT - THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY  
CO-CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup>  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2015**

**RE: "WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CAREGIVING,  
HOMECARE, AND MEDICAID" PROGRAM**

The Columbia Society, Inc. and the Health, Retirement, and Welfare subcommittee of the Gender Fairness Committee for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, sponsored another program today in their series of health and retirement events. Speakers were Keondra Epps of Westchester Independent Living on "Advocating for Patients in Nursing Homes"; Loren Gilburg of Elder Care Corporation on "The Role of a Geriatric Care Manager"; and Colin Sandler of Medicaid Solutions on "How To Qualify for Medicaid while Remaining at Home".

The program was highly informative on each of these issues. Each area is one that we will all probably experience at some point in our lives, whether for ourselves or in caring for a family member.

Approximately 45 people attended (both court employees and non-employees). Josephine M. Bastone opened and closed the program. Columbia Society member and GF Health, Retirement, and Welfare subcommittee co-chair Laura Bisignano moderated. Laura was also responsible for obtaining the speakers.

# *THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY, INC.*

*Josephine M. Bastone, President*

**TO: HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR  
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT**

**FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE  
PRESIDENT - THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY  
CO-CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup>  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

**RE: SELF-PUBLISHING PROGRAM**

On December 9, 2015, The Columbia Society and the Gender Fairness Committee for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District co-sponsored a program entitled "I Wrote a Book, Now What? A Guide to Self-Publishing". Approximately 40 people attended the event.

Our speakers were former Bronx ADAs Fausta Locorotondo McDermott and Hon. Michael McDermott, and their illustrator-son Joseph McDermott. The McDermotts are the authors of "The Concert Hall Cats", winner of the 2015 top prize for children's book category for the Great Midwest Book Festival.

Copies of the book were made available following the program at the office of the Bronx County Bar Association, and the authors kindly stayed to autograph books.

This is the second time the Bronx Courts have held such an event, with the first being the highly successful talk by Mary Higgins Clark several years ago, sponsored by the Gender Fairness Committee.

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

**Hon. Deborah Kaplan, Chair**

**Gregory Testa, Chair**

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

Chair(s): *Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan and Gregory F. Testa, Esq.*

Members – *Valerie Qualls, Secretary, Simone Abrams, Doina Almazon, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Patricia Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Judith Gische, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Steven Helfont, Esq., Yesenia Herrera, Cecily Hernandez, Hon. Lynn Kotler, Joan Levenson, Esq., Dean Leslie, Esq., Deanna Lucci, Esq., Hon. Eileen Rakower, Sheila Riley-Aultman, Marie Rosemy, Hon. Lori Sattler, Hon. O. Peter Sherwood, Gloria Smyth-Godinger, Hon. Milton Tingling, John Werner, Esq., Shadai Wilkins*

Counties Served: *New York*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *Monthly including events*

Average Attendance: *10-20 members comprised of judges, court attorneys, judicial and non judicial staff, and court officers.*

Do you use Videoconferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? *Yes*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *Our Committee has featured a diverse group of programs including a discussion with a former solicitor general, a presentation by a leader of a domestic violence non-profit organization, and a program featuring leaders from the ASPCA regarding the intersection of domestic violence and animal abuse. We received great feedback from attendees and our participants. We are happy to feature educational programs which continue to open a dialogue on important issues.*

### **2015 Special Events**

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015:

*In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our Committee hosted a presentation by Howard Lawrence, Vice President of the Cruelty Intervention Advocacy Division of the ASPCA, and Allison Cardona, Senior Director of the Cruelty Intervention Advocacy Division.*

*This presentation discussed the intersection of domestic violence and animal abuse. Also discussed was the ASPCA's important partnership with the NYPD and with social service organizations in order to combat animal cruelty and domestic violence. Both Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Cardona also answered questions about the ASPCA's innovative work in this area.*

Activities for Women's History Month 2015:

*We hosted two Women's History programs. The first program featured a special conversation with Shirley Adelson Siegel, Esq., former New York State Solicitor General. Ms.*

*Siegel discussed her education, her career, her groundbreaking legal work, and the obstacles which she overcame.*

*The second program featured a keynote presentation by the Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Executive Director for Sanctuary for Families. Judge Kluger discussed her work in the field of domestic violence and how organizations such as Sanctuary for Families provide aid and vital assistance to victims of domestic violence.*

*The Committee also presented court employee Ellen Wagner with the 2015 Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Wagner began her career with the court system in 1992, and has worked in various positions. Before her retirement this winter, Ms. Wagner worked as an Associate Court Clerk in the Guardian & Fiduciary Office. A reception with refreshments followed the award presentation.*

#### **Other Special Events or Activities in 2015:**

##### *Bring Your Children to Work Day*

*In April, our Committee hosted its annual "Bring Your Children to Work Day" program. This event welcomes children of employees in our court for a fun and educational day in the courthouse. The children were greeted to a breakfast and attended a welcome presentation featuring courthouse employees who discussed their occupations.*

*The children also took part in a security equipment demonstration and participated in mock trials with Supreme Court Justices in which the children assumed the roles of judges, jurors, witnesses, and attorneys. The program concluded with a pizza lunch and gift bags were given to the attendees.*

##### *The Holocaust Remembrance Program*

*On April 28, 2015, our Committee co-sponsored with the Jewish Lawyers Guild, the Holocaust Remembrance Program. This program featured presentations by the Honorable Martin Shulman, Associate Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department, and the Honorable Peter H. Moulton, Administrative Judge, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Branch.*

*The program began with a traditional candle lighting ceremony by Holocaust survivors and their family members to honor those that lost their lives. Judge Moulton read a brief biography of each family which detailed their experiences during and after the Holocaust.*

*The keynote presenter was Martin Greenfield, a survivor of the Holocaust, followed by a musical performance by the SAR High School Choir. The courthouse's historic rotunda also featured an exhibit entitled "Liberation and Rebirth" which included artifacts, documents, and photographs from the Holocaust.*

##### *Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event*

*On June 5, 2015, the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event was held. Named in honor of Caren Aronowitz, a beloved court employee who passed away and who was instrumental in organizing many courthouse events, this program continues to be an incredibly popular event. This event is co-sponsored by various bar associations and community organizations and*

*features food celebrating different cultures, several musical performances, a performance by the New York State Court Bagpipe and Drum Corps, and a slideshow collage celebrating the diversity within our courthouses.*

### *Summer Lecture*

*This summer our committee hosted a unique lecture and presentation featuring Robert Pigott, Esq., General Counsel of Phipps Houses. Mr. Pigott spoke about his new book "New York's Legal Landmarks." Mr. Pigott presented a detailed slideshow which took guests on a historic journey visiting New York City's courthouses and important locations in the field of law. This event was well attended by court staff as well as interns in our court's summer internship program.*

### **Special Event Marketing**

*How were your special events advertised or marketed? Our special events are advertised and marketed by contacting many organizations and schools, by sending out advertisements, and by e-mailing groups. We also directly contact college and law school professors so that they can discuss our programs with students and faculty that may be interested in attending.*

*Who and how many attended? All of our programs are open to members of the public. The events are attended by judges, judicial and non-judicial staff, attorneys, bar association members, college and law school professors, students, and members of the community. Our events generally attract about 100 people.*

*Was there any press before or after? Yes*

### **Future Plans**

*What are your plans for 2016? In 2016, we hope to continue to build upon the success of our traditional events for Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Holocaust Remembrance, Bring Your Children to Work Day, and the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity program. We also hope to host a panel discussion on Elder Abuse, have a CPR training, and a health related event.*

### **Concerns**

*What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016? Gender equality, trafficking, dating violence, and domestic violence.*

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

*What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? We would be interested in Lunch & Learn programs presented throughout the year featuring different topics associated with domestic violence (animal abuse, elder abuse, etc.).*

*Would online viewing or videoconferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? Yes*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real-time on your desktop computer? *Yes*

### **Collaboration**

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

Is there anything else you would like to submit? *Yes, attached.*

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

**Domestic Violence &**

**Animal Cruelty**



**NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

**1:00 P.M.**

**SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY, CIVIL TERM**

**60 CENTRE STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

## **WELCOME**

Honorable Deborah A. Kaplan  
Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Violence Cases & Co-Chairperson  
of the Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch

Honorable Peter H. Moulton  
Administrative Judge For Civil Matters,  
First Judicial District

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

Honorable Matthew F. Cooper  
Domestic Violence Subcommittee Co-Chairperson

## **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

Howard Lawrence  
Vice President

Allison Cardona  
Senior Director

Cruelty Intervention Advocacy of the ASPCA

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Gregory F. Testa, Esq.  
Domestic Violence Subcommittee Co-Chairperson

Committee chairpersons: Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Gregory Testa, Esq., Committee members: Simone Abrams, Doina Almazon, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Andrew Coyle, Esq., PJ Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Judith Gische, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Steven Helfont, Esq., Yesenia Herrera, Cecily Hernandez, Ta-Tanisha James, Esq., Dean Leslie, Esq., Joan Levenson, Esq., Valerie Qualls, Sheila Riley-Aultman, Marie Rosemy, Rosaline Rosenfeld, Esq., Hon. Lori Sattler, Hon. O. Peter Sherwood, Hon. Milton Tingling, Ellen Wagner, John Werner, Esq., Shadai Wilkins. Thank you to Camy Foreau, Ray Denton, Michelle Gonsieski, Andrew Melville, and Naomi Ruiz.



**Howard Lawrence**  
**Vice President, Humane Law Enforcement**  
**ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Group**

Howard Lawrence is Vice President of the ASPCA's Humane Law Enforcement department. In this role, Howard oversees all functional components of the department which include an administrative staff, law enforcement liaisons, the Cruelty Intervention Advocacy program - which has a presence in New York City and Los Angeles - and manages the close working relationship with the New York City Police Department in support of the ASPCA/NYPD animal cruelty partnership.

Howard joined the ASPCA in 2010, and before assuming his current position he served more than 24 years with the New York City Police Department. He retired with the rank of Inspector.

While with the NYPD Howard served as the Commanding Officer of the Department's Auto Crime Division; a one hundred-thirty member citywide detective investigative unit. The Auto Crime Division targets major auto crime violators, organized crime operations and others involved in organized motor vehicle related crimes. Investigative techniques used while heading this division include undercover operations, video and physical surveillance, and wire-taps.

Prior to his assignment at the Auto Crime Division, Howard was the Commanding Officer of Manhattan's prestigious 19th precinct. While there, he was responsible to prioritize resources and manpower to effectively and efficiently police this Upper East Side community which consists of more than two hundred-ten thousand residents, six hospitals, fifty schools, forty-four houses of worship, thirty-two foreign properties, and such notable landmarks as Gracie Mansion and the Madison Avenue Business District. Other significant posts include serving as the Commanding Officer of Highway Patrol Unit #2, and the Executive Officer of the 40th precinct. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the American Academy for Professional Law Enforcement and the National Law Enforcement Associates.

**Allison Cardona**  
**Senior Director, Cruelty Intervention Advocacy (CIA) Program**  
**ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Group**

Allison Cardona joined the ASPCA in 2003 and is currently the senior director of the organization's Cruelty Intervention Advocacy (CIA) program. The CIA program, which launched in April 2010, aims to prevent animal cruelty in New York City before it happens by addressing the root causes of animal suffering and providing long-term, sustainable change. To date through this initiative, thousands of animals have been assisted that would likely have otherwise been at risk of neglect or ending up in a shelter. In 2014, the CIA program expanded to also offer services on the West Coast, with a "safety net" program in Los Angeles that works to keep pets in their homes and out of shelters by providing services to low-income pet owners in need of resources.

Cardona was named senior director of the CIA program in December 2012. In this role, Cardona oversees all facets of the CIA operation, focusing on continuing to build capacity to help many more animals in jeopardy of becoming cruelty victims through outreach, education and provision of vital services such as emergency veterinary care, spay/neuter and removal of and rehoming of hoarded animals. Cardona also oversees the ASPCA and Urban Resource Institute partnership in support of URIPALS, NYC's first-ever program to house domestic violence victims with their pets.

Cardona has been deployed across the country to respond to cruelty cases and natural disasters. She is trained in technical and large animal rescue, swift water rescue, and incident command systems. She is also a member of NYC's Animal Planning Task Force, a coalition of animal welfare and emergency management agencies that work together to plan and respond to animal issues during disasters. Cardona served as the Animal Planning liaison to NYC's Office of Emergency Management during Hurricanes Irene and Superstorm Sandy. She is also a member of the New York Women's Foundation Grants Advisory Committee and is a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC.

Before choosing to pursue a career in animal welfare, Cardona worked as a marketing coordinator for an architecture and design firm. Her volunteer work with a local cat organization, Neighborhood Cats, introduced her to the plight of New York City's stray and feral cats and sparked an interest in spay/neuter education and outreach. She learned about Trap-Neuter-Return, a humane method of population control for feral cats, and was introduced to the work of the ASPCA, which led to the start of a career in animal welfare.

###

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

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY**

FEATURING A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY  
HOWARD LAWRENCE, VICE PRESIDENT  
AND  
ALLISON CARDONA, SENIOR DIRECTOR

### **CRUELTY INTERVENTION ADVOCACY OF THE ASPCA**

Please join us on November 16, 2015, as we welcome Allison Cardona and Howard Lawrence from the ASPCA. Ms. Cardona and Mr. Lawrence will talk about the intersection of animal abuse and domestic violence and the importance of a multi-disciplinary, integrated response. Learn about the ASPCA's partnership with the NYPD (in responding to animal cruelty) and with social service organizations such as the Urban Resource Institute, to keep family members together when leaving abusive situations; supporting research, programs and policy in the areas where animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment, and elder abuse intersect; and training law enforcement, district attorneys and veterinarians.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015

1:00 – 2:00 P.M.

SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY, CIVIL TERM

60 CENTRE STREET, ROOM 300

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

REFRESHMENTS TO BE PROVIDED  
THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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

*Women's History Month 2015*

APRIL 16, 2015

1:00 P.M.

SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY  
60 CENTRE STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

# *Women's History Month 2015*

## WELCOME

Honorable Peter H. Moulton  
Administrative Judge For Civil Matters,  
First Judicial District

## OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Honorable Deborah A. Kaplan  
Co-Chairperson of  
The Gender Fairness Committee, New York County,  
Supreme Court, Civil Branch

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Honorable Judy Harris Kluger  
Executive Director, Sanctuary for Families

## WELCOME FROM THE NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK AND COMMISSIONER OF JURORS

Honorable Milton A. Tingling

## PRESENTATION OF THE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO ELLEN WAGNER

Mr. Scott M. Singer  
Clerk-in- Charge  
Guardianship and Fiduciary Support Office

## CLOSING REMARKS

Gregory F. Testa, Esq.  
Co-Chairperson of  
The Gender Fairness Committee, New York County,  
Supreme Court, Civil Branch

*Hon. Judy Harris Kluger*  
*Executive Director, Sanctuary for Families*

Hon. Judy Harris Kluger was named Executive Director of Sanctuary for Families in January 2014. Sanctuary is New York's leading advocate and service provider for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking and related forms of gender violence. Every year, Sanctuary empowers thousands of adults and children to move from fear and abuse to safety and stability, transforming lives through a comprehensive range of services. Sanctuary's staff of more than 200 individuals communicate with clients in over 30 languages and provide services in 10 locations throughout New York City.

Prior to joining Sanctuary, Judge Kluger served as Chief of Policy and Planning for New York State's Unified Court System. In addition to her role in system-wide court reform and policy development and implementation, Judge Kluger oversaw the statewide problem-solving court program, which included the Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, Drug Courts, Domestic Violence Courts, Mental Health Courts, Sex Offense Courts and Community Courts. Judge Kluger was also instrumental in developing and implementing New York's Human Trafficking Intervention Courts - specialized courts designed to ensure that victims of sex trafficking are provided with social services and support rather than being treated as criminals. This remains an important issue for her as she leads Sanctuary for Families. In the past year, Sanctuary under Judge Kluger's leadership launched the Pro Bono Project in Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court.

Judge Kluger began her career as an assistant district attorney in Kings County where she served as the Bureau Chief of the Sex Crimes and Domestic Violence Bureau and later as Chief of the Criminal Court Bureau. In 1988, she was appointed to the New York City Criminal Court. She was a key member of the development team at the Midtown Community Court, a project that received national acclaim for its innovative handling of quality of life crimes and began an era of development of problem-solving courts throughout the country.

Judge Kluger is an active member of numerous professional associations and is a frequent public speaker and panelist. She is currently a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary. Judge Kluger has received many honors and awards most recently, the New York Law Journal's Lawyers Who Lead by Example, the New York State Bar Association Award for Excellence in Public Service; the Lawyer's Committee Against Domestic Violence in the Trenches; and Sanctuary's Abely Award for Leading Women and Children to Safety.

Judge Kluger was recently featured in the book "New York's New Abolitionists: Who Are They?" which features photographs and biographical information of many individuals who are united by their commitment to end human trafficking in New York State as well as globally.

# *Ellen Wagner*

## *Associate Court Clerk, Guardianship and Fiduciary Office*

The 2015 Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award is proudly presented to Ellen Wagner. Ellen began her career with the New York State Unified Court System in 1992 in the office of the Honorable Norman Goodman, serving as a Senior Court Assistant before being promoted to Principal Office Assistant in the Queen's County Clerk's Office, Jury Division.

In 1997, Ellen returned to New York County and worked as Senior Court Clerk in the Cashier's Office before advancing to Supervisor of the Cashier's Office. She began working in the Guardianship and Fiduciary Office in 2007, where she assists pro-se litigants and attorneys with filings. Ellen actively serves on several courthouse committees, including the Gender Fairness Committee, and its programs including "Take Your Children to Work Day" and the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Program.

Ellen is a lifelong resident of New York City. She spent her early childhood in the Bronx and since then has been a resident of Queens. She graduated from the Mary Louis Academy in Jamaica, Queens, and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Sociology from Queens College in Flushing, New York. She is married with three children and five grandchildren.

In addition to her commitment to both her family and her career, Ellen serves as a Eucharistic Minister at both St. Thomas Apostle Church in Woodhaven, Queens, and at St. Andrews Church in Manhattan.

The Gender Fairness Committee proudly congratulates Ellen on her many accomplishments and for her distinguished service to the court.

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Hon. Peter H. Moulton, Administrative Judge

Committee chairpersons: Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Gregory Testa, Esq.

Committee members: Simone Abrams, Doina Almazon, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Andrew Coyle, Esq., PJ Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Judith Gische, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Steven Helfont, Esq., Yesenia Herrera, Officer Cecily Hernandez, Ta-Tanisha James, Esq., Dean Leslie, Esq., Joan Levenson, Esq., Valerie Qualls, Marie Rosemy, Rosaline Rosenfeld, Esq., Hon. Lori Sattler, Hon. O. Peter Sherwood, Seng Yan Sin, Esq., Hon. Milton Tingling, Ellen Wagner, John Werner, Esq., Officer Shadai Wilkins. Thank you for planning and advertising assistance to Luis Carrero, Ray Denton, Michelle Gonsieski, Irene Laracuenta, Naomi Ruiz, Joanne Sarro, Esq., Loren Schwartz, and Sandra Tolle.



**THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE, NEW YORK COUNTY,  
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH, PRESENTS  
THE 2015 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION**

**FEATURING A PRESENTATION BY OUR HONOREE, THE HON. JUDY HARRIS KLUGER  
AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO ELLEN WAGNER**

**APRIL 16, 2015, 1:00 P.M.**

**60 CENTRE STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK,  
NORMAN GOODMAN JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, ROOM # 452**

The 2015 Women's History Month Celebration will feature a keynote presentation by the Hon. Judy Harris Kluger. In 2014, Judge Kluger assumed the role of Executive Director of Sanctuary for Families. Sanctuary is New York's leading advocate and service provider for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking, and related forms of gender violence. Prior to joining Sanctuary, Judge Kluger served as Chief of Policy and Planning for New York State's Unified Court System. In addition to her role in system-wide court reform and policy development and implementation, Judge Kluger oversaw the statewide problem-solving court program, which included more than 300 Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, Drug Courts, Domestic Violence Courts, Mental Health Courts, Sex Offense Courts and Community Courts.

The 2015 Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award will be proudly presented to Ellen Wagner. Ellen began her career with the court system in 1992 in the office of the Honorable Norman Goodman, serving as a Senior Court Assistant before being promoted to Principal Office Assistant in the Queen's County Clerk's Office, Jury Division. In 1997, Ellen returned to New York County and worked as Senior Court Clerk in the Cashier's Office before advancing to Supervisor of the Cashier's Office. She began working in the Guardianship and Fiduciary Office in 2007, where she assists pro-se litigants and attorneys with filings. Ellen actively serves on several courthouse committees, including the Gender Fairness Committee.

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS TO BE PROVIDED**

The Gender Fairness Committee of the Supreme Court,  
New York County, Civil Branch,  
is privileged to present in celebration of

# Women's History Month

*Shirley Adelson Siegel, Esq.*

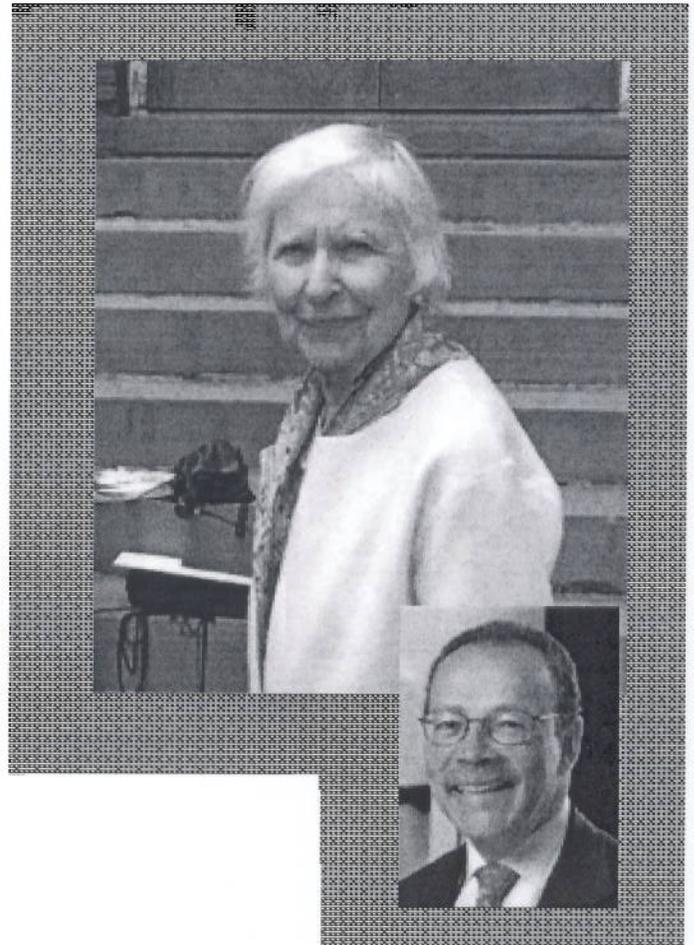
March 18, 2015  
12:45 - 2:15 PM  
60 Centre Street, NY, NY, 10007  
Ceremonial Courtroom 300

Former New York State Solicitor General Shirley Adelson Siegel, a proud alumna of Barnard College's Class of 1937, was the only women in her Yale Law School Class of 1941. Ms. Siegel's illustrious career in the bar, both in private practice and public service, is itself an important chapter in women's history. Her early work in civil rights and housing rights both presaged and contributed directly to the modern civil rights movement. As an ACLU volunteer in the 1940's, she contributed to the challenge in the U.S. Supreme Court against Japanese internment camps.

At the request of then Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz, she headed the first New York State Attorney General's Civil Rights Bureau where she brought pioneering cases against discrimination in the building trades' apprenticeship system. She also served as General Counsel to the Housing and Development Administration under then Mayor John Lindsay.

Everyone is invited to hear Shirley Adelson Siegel talk about her long and distinguished career on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. She will be interviewed by the Hon. O. Peter Sherwood, a justice of the New York Commercial Division, and himself a former Solicitor General.

*It should be a great conversation!*



# NEW YORK'S LEGAL LANDMARKS



A Guide to  
Legal Edifices,  
Institutions, Lore,  
History, and  
Curiosities on  
the City's Streets

ROBERT PIGOTT

Please join us on June 25, 2015 for a special presentation by Robert Pigott, Esq. A 1986 graduate of Columbia Law School, Bob has been practicing law for over 25 years. He presently serves as the General Counsel of Phipps Houses, New York City's oldest and largest nonprofit developer of affordable housing.

Bob will present a slide show featuring photographs from his book, *New York's Legal Landmarks*. *New York's Legal Landmarks* is a historical guidebook to those locations for lawyers or anyone with an interest in the City's history. Organized geographically and covering all five boroughs, *New York's Legal Landmarks* contains over 160, mostly vintage photographs. The book features courthouses past and present that were sites of sensational trials (both actual and in film), as well as locations that figured in the nation's constitutional history and law firms where great Americans practiced law.

THE GENDER  
FAIRNESS  
COMMITTEE,  
SUPREME COURT,  
NEW YORK  
COUNTY,  
CIVIL BRANCH  
INVITES YOU TO A

PRESENTATION  
BY ROBERT  
PIGOTT, ESQ.

THURSDAY  
JUNE 25, 2015  
1:00-2:00 P.M.

SUPREME  
COURT,  
NEW YORK  
COUNTY,  
CIVIL TERM  
60 CENTRE ST  
FIFTH FLOOR,  
ROOM 540

LIGHT  
REFRESHMENTS  
WILL BE  
SERVED

PLEASE JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015 AT 12:30 P.M.,  
IN THE SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY, CIVIL TERM'S  
HISTORIC ROTUNDA AT 60 CENTRE STREET TO CELEBRATE  
THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**Caren Aronowitz**

## **Unity in Diversity Program**

FEATURING FOOD & MUSIC CELEBRATING  
OUR DIVERSITY



PRESENTED BY THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE, THE GENDER FAIRNESS  
COMMITTEE, SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY, CIVIL BRANCH, AND NEW YORK  
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

# HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

*Sponsored by the*  
**JEWISH LAWYERS GUILD**

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 4:45-6:30 P.M.  
Supreme Court, New York County, 60 Centre Street ~ Rotunda

*Remarks and Readings*

**ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE PETER MOULTON**  
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH, NEW YORK COUNTY

**CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY BY**  
**HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND MEMBERS OF THE SECOND**  
**AND THIRD GENERATION**

*Remarks*

**HONORABLE MARTIN SHULMAN**  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE APPELLATE TERM, FIRST DEPARTMENT

*Keynote Address*

**Martin Greenfield, Clothier, Author**  
**and Holocaust Survivor**

Mr. Greenfield has been called "America's greatest living tailor" and "the most interesting man in the world." His clients have included three United States Presidents, other notable politicians and many celebrities. He is the author of "Measure of a Man," in which he tells his incredible life story including how he as a young teenager in Auschwitz came face to face with the "Angel of Death," Dr. Joseph Mengele. In the camp he learned how to sew and in that surreal but sadly all too real world his sewing skills helped save his life. That experience, as brutal as it was, gave him an understanding of and appreciation for the potential and power of clothes to "make the man," and thereafter creating beautiful, elegant clothes became his life's work. While Mr. Greenfield has had an enormously successful career, what he has to tell us about his experience in Auschwitz seems even more relevant today as Jews throughout Europe and beyond have increasingly been the subject of all manner of attacks, including murderous ones.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Musical Selections by the SAR High School Choir**

\*\*\*\*\*

For more information, please contact Justice Shulman at (646) 386-5687 or [MShulman@nycourts.gov](mailto:MShulman@nycourts.gov) or  
Justice Deborah Kaplan at (646) 386-5567 or [DKaplan@nycourts.gov](mailto:DKaplan@nycourts.gov)



# Just Us



A publication from Supreme Court Civil Branch, First J.D.  
New York County and New York County Clerk's Office

**Remembrance Issue No. 4, May 2015**

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## *Introduction*

by **Hon. Martin Shulman, Program Co-Chair with  
Hon. Deborah Kaplan**

On Tuesday, April 28, 2015 [6<sup>th</sup> of Iyyar 5775], the Jewish Lawyers' Guild, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County (Gender Fairness Committee), and the New York County Clerk's Office sponsored our annual Holocaust Remembrance Program. Our first such Remembrance Program was presented in 1994, and these programs have become a vitally important tradition in our court. I was most privileged to moderate this year's program and in the process offer some thoughts of my own. I noted that President Obama - who had recently toured the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum with Holocaust survivor and renowned author Elie Weisel - characterized the museum as a reminder that nations too often do not do enough to prevent atrocities, and that said, even as Mr. Weisel challenged the President to do more about the killing of civilians in Syria and the threat posed by Iran, the President ruefully confessed that "it's a bitter truth. . . [that] too often the world has failed to prevent the killing of innocents on a massive scale, and we are haunted by the atrocities that we did not stop and the lives we did not save."

**Remembrance Issue Editor: Loren Schwartz**

In my remarks I also acknowledged Irwin Coffey, a journalist, who wrote that the genocide of European Jewry succeeded not only because of a culture of hate and an industry of death perpetrated by the Nazis, but also because of ubiquitous crimes of indifference. In that vein, Yehudah Bauer, an Israeli historian and Holocaust scholar, has declared: “Thou shalt not be a victim, thou shalt not be a perpetrator, but above all, thou shalt not be a bystander,” as so many were throughout Germany, Europe and far beyond as the tragedy of the Holocaust proceeded. Bauer would have all people of conscience speak out against the hatred, bigotry and immorality so endemic among the Nazis and now so pervasive in certain parts of the world: the Middle East, North Africa, East Africa. The lessons to be learned from the Holocaust if taken to heart should have put an end to such cruelty and horror, but sadly, tragically, those lessons have not been learned in some quarters. The Nazis industrialized death, creating an assembly line of death with the technology available at the time. Technology has advanced exponentially since the Holocaust and in the wrong hands could jeopardize countless millions more. So, it is necessary, absolutely critical to remember, reflect and make widely known the terrible ordeal suffered, especially by European Jewry, at the hands of the Nazis, in the hope that such evil will never be repeated. The enormity of the horrors of the Holocaust – which horrors remain an open wound on the body of Western Civilization and beyond – are unto themselves in scope and scale. Indeed, it is the very enormity of those horrors which makes them so difficult to comprehend, and it is that difficulty which makes annual remembrance programs such as ours essential. Through these critically important programs we try to the extent humanly possible to comprehend the terror of the Holocaust, and in so doing we honor the past, we mourn the world we lost, and do our best to encourage others to be pro-active in creating a safer, fairer world in which peace, tolerance and justice reign.

During our candle lighting ceremony, we read aloud the poignant biographies and moving stories of the Stark, Hus, Kaufman, Nock, Pomerance, Schwartz, Blum and Greenfield families and the survivors, including their children and grandchildren, and then lit six candles to honor the memory of

their loved ones as well as the six million Jews who perished. This year, those stories were read beautifully by Administrative Judge Peter Moulton, his narration powerfully conveying the terror of the time, the suffering experienced by these families and the wonderful lives these families have since made for themselves, their children and grandchildren.

This year's museum quality remembrance exhibit, "Liberation and Rebirth," which was on display in our great rotunda in conjunction with our Remembrance Program, was on loan from the Kleinman Family Holocaust Education Center. The theme of that exhibit complemented this year's many world-wide commemorations of the liberation of the Nazi death camps. We are grateful to the curator of this important exhibit, Dr. Henri Lustiger-Thaler, and his chief assistant, Megan McCall, for bringing and setting up this exhibit. Mr. Kleinman, a child of Holocaust survivors, is the founder and the President of the Kleinman Family Holocaust Education Center, and is the driving force behind it. The Center, in part, enables Jewish audiences as well as those of all faiths and backgrounds to better appreciate the Holocaust in its entirety with a special emphasis on the Orthodox Jewish perspective and experience. Mr. Kleinman is a major philanthropic personality, whose generosity is accompanied by personal involvement in virtually every aspect of Jewish communal life – from education and publications to social services, visiting the sick, and Holocaust remembrance.

We offer with reverence and respect this the fourth special edition of "Just Us" featuring, inter alia, the readings from our 2015 Remembrance Program. As in years past, we appreciate deeply the stellar editorship of Loren Schwartz as we publish the inspiring narratives delivered in conjunction with this year's Candle Lighting Ceremony. As with past such special editions, one can only be inspired by this special edition as it recounts the true life experience of another group of courageous individuals who survived the Holocaust. One such survivor, Martin Greenfield, author of a best-selling autobiography, "Measure of a Man," served as this year's Keynote Speaker. Mr. Greenberg is an

amazing, optimistic human being who, after enduring and overcoming incredible hardship and evil, came to the United States, the land of his liberators, to build a new life, an amazing family, a world renowned business as well as an incredible record of charity and philanthropy.

This year’s program was enhanced immeasurably by beautiful and moving musical offerings of the SAR Academy High School Choir, Director, Rabbi Kenneth Birnbaum. Finally, the powerful film “Steal Me a Pencil” was shown in conjunction with our Remembrance, and viewed by many in the court, as well as by members of the public.



**SAR Academy High School Choir in front of 60 Centre Street, where the court’s annual Holocaust Remembrance takes place.**

## Candle Lighter and Keynote Speaker: Martin Greenfield

Martin Greenfield, was born in Pavlova, Czechoslovakia in 1928. He was imprisoned at the Auschwitz death camp and there came face to face with the “Angel of Death”, Dr. Joseph Mengele. In that terrible place he learned to sew and became a tailor. Those sewing skills saved his life. Mr. Greenfield believes that his brutal experience during the Holocaust gave him an understanding of and appreciation for the potential and power of clothes to “make the man.”

Mr. Greenfield immigrated to the United States in 1947, where he obtained his first job with GGG, a clothing manufacturer where he worked as a floor boy-carrying bundles of cloth from one tailor to another. He was given increasing responsibility moving from seam bender to jump baster, to floor supervisor and eventually to assume the role of Vice-President of Manufacturing for the seven hundred employee company. In 1977, when GGG closed, he bought the facility and with six employees opened Martin Greenfield Clothiers, Ltd. The company was founded on a successful business model that allowed customers to provide their own cloth and receive a quality product produced at a competitive price.

Mr. Greenfield continues to lead Martin Greenfield Clothiers Ltd., with the assistance of his two sons who joined the business in the 1980's. Mr. Greenfield's clients have included three United States Presidents, other notable celebrities and many celebrities. The company, a union shop, employs over one hundred people and still operates at the original 1917 Brooklyn Factory.

Mr. Greenfield is an active participant in many charitable and community endeavors including founding the East Williamsburg Valley Industrial Development Corporation, serving as a Director of the Saint Nicholas Neighborhood Development Corporation, Community Planning Board # 1 and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce among others.



**Left to right: Henri Lustiger Thaler, KFHEC senior curator, Martin Greenfield, Judge Shulman, Bruce Raskin, president of Jewish Lawyers Guild**

In November of 2014 his first book, a memoir entitled “Measure of A Man” was published, in which he tells his incredible life story. Mr. Greenfield lives in East Hills, New York with his wife of fifty seven years Arlene near his sons and their families. We are honored to have Mr. Greenfield, “America’s greatest living tailor” here today to light a candle and then as our Keynote Speaker share his remembrances and thoughts with us.

## Candle Lighter: Howard Blum

I was born on January 25, 1926 and grew up in Nuremberg, Germany, with my parents and older sister. During the mid 1930's, when German anti-Jewish laws and practices became ever more restrictive, my parents realized that emigration would be the only viable option for our family. Emigration to other countries, however, was difficult, if not impossible. My parents applied to the U.S. Consulate in Stuttgart for an immigration visa and received an application number. Because of the large number of applications, the annual quota quickly became over-subscribed, and a low number became a necessity to qualify for a visa.

In addition, applicants were required to furnish an affidavit of financial responsibility from an American sponsor, so that the new immigrants would not become public charges. To obtain this affidavit, my father pursued every imaginable possibility. He wrote to the New York State Governor Herbert H. Lehman, a first cousin, once removed, and a powerful political presence closely tied to then President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Carl Laemmle, a pioneer in the Hollywood movie industry, whose acquaintance he had made while a very young teacher in Ichenhausen where my sister and I were born; and, also, to a distant relative of my mother. Governor Lehman declined to become involved, but Laemmle and my mother's relative were compassionate and generous and furnished affidavits of financial support. Unfortunately, both affidavits were rejected by the Consulate as "inadequate."

In 1936, I entered the Reform Gymnasium in Nuremberg as a first year student, one of three Jewish students in the class. My father enrolled me in there because, as an educator, he felt strongly that it would offer a better education than that available at the Jewish middle school in neighboring Fuerth. Although I do not recall any overt acts of anti-Semitism, I had no social contact with the students, other than the two Jewish students. There were no Jewish teachers because they were forbidden from teaching in non-Jewish, secular schools.

Volumes have been written about the events preceding and following Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938, which included the burning of synagogues, the arrest of thousands of Jewish men, the destruction of Jewish businesses and property, enormous monetary fines levied on the Jewish community, as well as further severe restrictions on almost every aspect of life.

These events, although well planned in advance, had been a carefully concealed secret, to give the appearance of spontaneity. Several days before, my mother had gone to Munich to attend a course in pastry baking, in the hope of finding employment. My father, sister and I went to sleep as usual the evening before. During the night, four men in Nazi uniforms came to our apartment and caused damage by smashing wine bottles, throwing my father's books out of the bookcase, and tearing the megillah he had rescued as a German soldier during the First World War. I was twelve and slept through the entire episode. My father believed that we had been random victims of Nazi vandalism, not unusual for that time. The next morning, when I arrived at school, the entire student body was already assembled in the school yard, all dressed in Hitler Youth or JungVolk uniforms. I was met by the Vice Director and, in front of the entire assembly, told to go home and not to return.

Earlier that month, I had been treated at the dentist for a filling, and decided to stop by his apartment where I was met by his disheveled wife, who tearfully informed me that their apartment had been trashed and her husband had been arrested. Only then did I begin to realize that we had not been the only victims. Everyone's life changed from that day on.

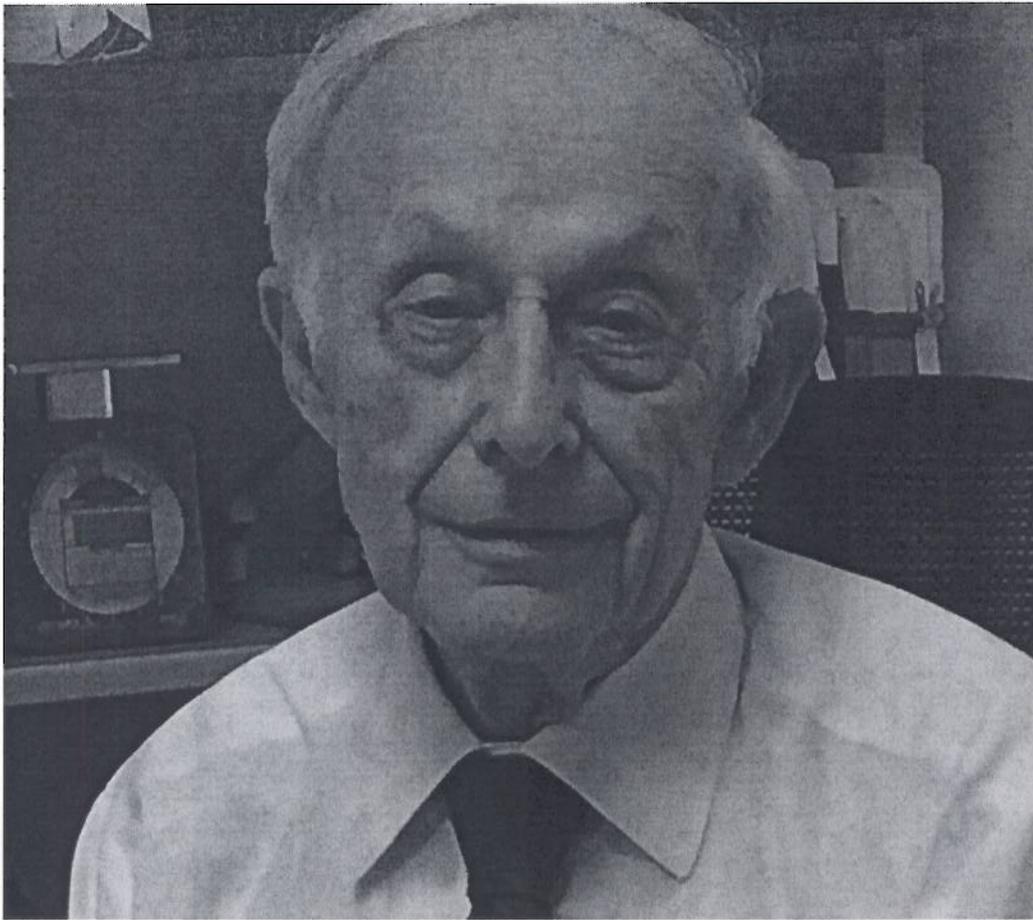
Conditions in Germany had now become dire and every Jewish person tried desperately to leave, to find a place to which to go, any place at all, with little chance of success. Our family's option to "go to America" had been dashed by the Consulate's rejection, but because I was under fourteen years old, a place was found in a special program where a child could be individually sponsored by a U.S. family and be admitted. Before being issued a visa, I was required to appear at the U.S. Consulate, undergo a physical examination, and swear allegiance to the United States. Because I was only thirteen years old, my father was obligated to appear with me.

The day before our scheduled appearance, my father and I traveled to Stuttgart, where we stayed over night with a Jewish family as Jews were no longer allowed to stay at public or non-Jewish facilities. When we arrived at the Consulate, I was directed into a room for my physical examination. I stripped to my undershorts, and a female Consulate person, perhaps a nurse, barked commands at me in English, to which I failed to respond, not understanding the language. This only seemed to infuriate her further, and she continued shouting at me. Finally, another person, hearing the raucous outside the room, translated her commands, which were simple enough to execute. I must have passed the “physical” and was ushered into the Consul’s office for final processing.

The Consul who appeared to be a friendly person, quickly looked through my file and seemed satisfied that it was in order. Now it was time for the oath, but, because I was a minor, my father was required to swear the oath on my behalf. My father, a religious man, had left his hat in the waiting area, and when he was asked to swear the oath, he requested permission to retrieve his hat for that purpose. The Consul was both surprised and impressed. My father covered his head and swore my allegiance. We were ready to leave.

At that point, the Consul asked my father why I was being sent by myself, did not the rest of the family wish to leave as well? My father explained that our application had been rejected and that he was grateful that his son had been given the opportunity to leave. We were asked to sit down. The Consul rang for our file, looked it over quickly, and marked it “approved.” The whole process had taken only minutes.

Our family left Germany together and arrived in the United States on December, 20, 1939. I attended and graduated from Stuyvesant High School, then attended City College at night working as working as an apprentice diamond cutter during the day. In 1944, I was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent as part of the 69th Division to Europe which participated in the Battle of the Bulge. I was discharged as a sergeant in June, 1946. I returned to college at night and received my accounting degree. I



**Herbert Blum**

then attended St. John's Law School at night, working as an accountant during the day. I am 89 years old and still work full time. I have two daughters and five grandchildren. I will forever be thankful to this country for the gift of emigration. It has saved the life of my family and has made it possible for me to be here today.

## Candle Lighters: Shirley Stark and Mark Hus

### Shirley Stark:

My mother Hanna was born in 1922, one of ten children born to Doba Halpem and Rabbi Eliyahu Noach Halpem, who served as the Rabbi of the Stone Synagogue in Orla, Poland, near the Russian border. She and her siblings enjoyed normal lives, going to school, playing with friends and interacting with Polish neighbors living nearby. All of that changed in 1943, when my mother, her beloved parents and her siblings were shoved onto cattle cars and transported to Treblinka, a Nazi death camp, where 850,000 Jews were gassed and worked to death—few survived. As my Aunt Hava told the story, she and my mother stood on the line where they would have been sent to the gas chambers, when an order for a transport of women to another Nazi work camp was delivered by the commandant in charge. At that moment, my mother and two of her sisters, Hava and Sora, were torn away from their families and sent to the Majdanek work camp near Lublin, in Poland. They never saw their families again and later learned that they had all been sent to the gas chambers on that same day.

My mother survived the grueling work load in Majdanek, only to be rewarded by being transported yet again - this time to Auschwitz - the place where terror reigned supreme, the crematoria never stopped burning and death was everywhere.



**Hanna and Elias Stark's wedding in a DP camp in Germany. Shirley Stark's paternal grandfather and her aunt and uncle directly behind them.**

There my mother survived because of a skill she had learned at her mother's side. My mother, you see, was assigned to peel potatoes. Because she was able to occasionally steal a potato peel or two, she was able to sustain herself and survive. My mother was liberated by the British in yet another concentration camp - Bergen Belsen. Of her family of her parents and ten children, the only other survivors were her older sister Hava, another older sister Raizel, who had emigrated to Palestine before the war, and her younger sister Sora. But, still the death toll was not complete - my mother's younger sister Sora, having endured the horrors of the concentration camps, became another name among the six million Jews who were exterminated by the Nazis when she died of typhus following the liberation.

In 1979, my husband and I visited Poland and Germany and went to see the concentration camps where both our families suffered so much. When we walked into Majdanek where my mother had been sent, we entered into a room filled from floor to ceiling with shoes and eyeglasses. It is difficult to envision six million dead people, but seeing the piles of shoes and glasses begins to give you a picture of the magnitude of the loss. It is not until we entered Auschwitz, however, that we understood what the Nazis had attempted to accomplish. The buildings in Auschwitz were made of brick, made to last, erected to accomplish the goal of exterminating a vibrant people. The Nazis came close to accomplishing their goal.

You would think that people who had endured such horror and witnessed such atrocities might never rise from the depths of depression that they experienced. Nothing could be further from the truth. My mother, and thousands of others like her, did the opposite - from the displaced persons camps where they were relocated, they affirmed life by marrying and having children, resulting in one of the highest birth rates in all of history.

My father Eliyahu Stark was taken from his home in a small town in Galicia, and then transported together with his father to Siberia. He never really learned the details of how his mother and several of his siblings perished. Together with his elderly father Haim Dov Stark, my father made his way to the

displaced persons camps in Germany. It was at the DP camp in Lagar Lechtfeld that my mother met my father. It was there that they married, with my mother wearing a veil that was passed from survivor bride to survivor bride. My older brother was born in that displaced persons camp, as my parents sought to reaffirm life and the continuity of their families.

My parents, along with their child aged 22 months, came to the US in 1950, full of hope and dreams of starting their lives fresh, and leaving behind the atrocities of yesterday. Of course, they would never forget - how could they? Still, they were able to forge ahead and build new lives. The freedom and civil liberties which Holocaust survivors enjoyed in the US allowed them to pursue new careers and educational opportunities. The US gave them the freedom to raise their families without discrimination and to exercise their right to practice their religion as they saw fit. My parents were forever grateful to the US for the freedom they enjoyed here and the opportunities given to us, their children, to fulfill our dreams. I, too, am grateful to the US for allowing me the opportunity to practice my faith and pursue my professional goals. Today, I mourn those who were exterminated by the Nazis, and I honor those survivors who courageously faced adversity and conquered it, building their lives anew and becoming successful and productive members of our society worldwide.

**Mark Hus:**

My mother, Margot (pronounced Margo) Rosenfeld Hus, was born in Mannheim, Germany in the mid-twenties. She often spoke about the horror of being chased down the streets by classmates yelling at her, "Jude, Jude, Jude." She tried to stand up for herself whenever she could, but that was rarely possible.

My father, Szyja, (pronounced Shee-yah), grew up in a shtetl in southwest Poland that was a mere 15 kilometers from Auschwitz. As a result of the town's proximity to the death camps, my paternal grandparents, Mayer and Sheindel (pronounced Shine-dell) Hus, and five of my father's siblings perished at the hands of the Nazis. Two of my aunts survived the ordeal of the concentration camps and had



the numbers on their arms to prove it.

When the war began, my father was lucky enough to be in Antwerp, Belgium. Although he thought he was safe, he was taken into custody and placed in a collection camp. He immediately understood that any valuables he had with him would be worthless very shortly. He quickly emptied his pockets and gave everything he had to the Nazi guard at the gate, who allowed him to sneak out. The guard assured my father that he would tell no one of his escape. As soon as he got out, my father ran into the forest outside the camp and hid. Moments later, he watched as a convoy of cars and trucks emerged to search for the Jew who had escaped. Once the coast was clear, my father made his way slowly westward. When he reached the west coast of Portugal, he was fortunate enough to buy a ticket on what would be the last ship allowed to bring Jews to Cuba.

My mother's father was also briefly held captive by the Nazis in Metz, France. He was released as a favor to a relative, but I do not know any details about how this happened. What I do know is that it

was clear to everyone how tenuous their freedom was, so my mother and her parents, Moritz and Johanna Rosenfeld, immediately fled westward. They made it to Spain and there, boarded a ship across the Atlantic. They reached Cuba more than a year before my father would arrive.

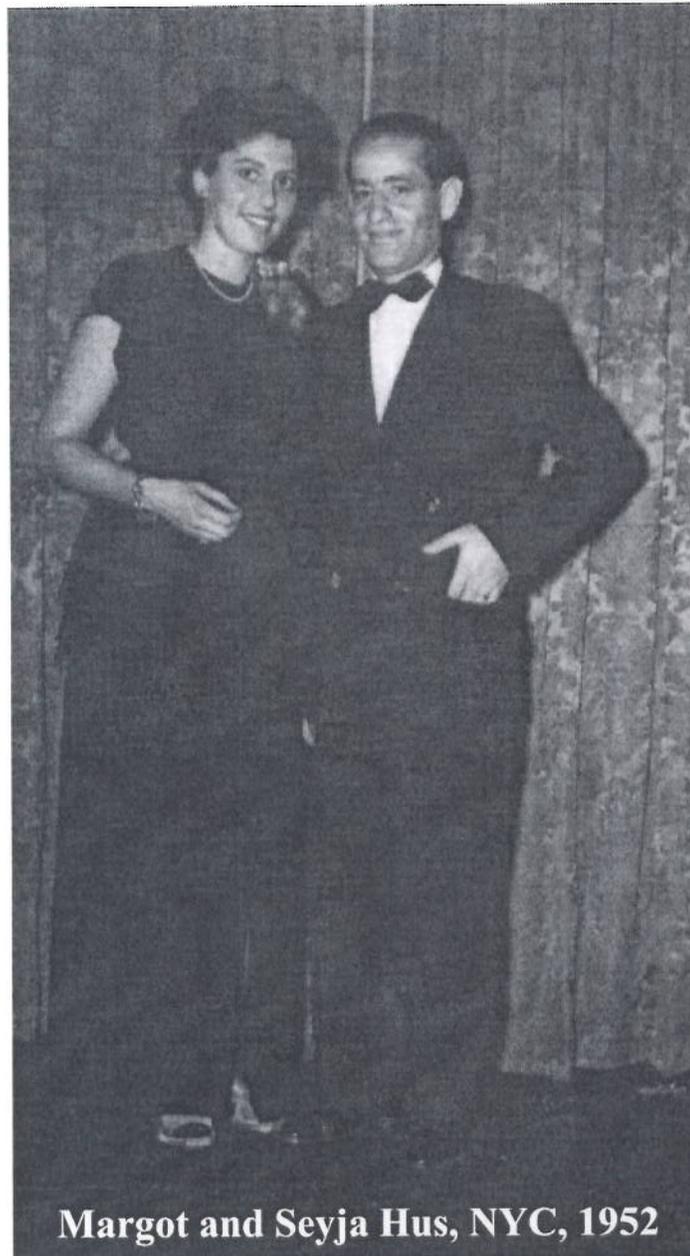
My parents met and dated in Cuba and after coming to the United States, were married in a small synagogue on Broadway and 80th Street in New York City. Many years later, on a "Black Friday," I stood on a checkout line at Circuit City and thought to myself that I could be standing on the very spot where my parents had been married.

The losses that my parents had suffered as a result of the Nazi atrocities were always with them. My father often spoke wistfully about his two brothers, Moshe and Aaron, who decided that they could not let their parents face the Nazi onslaught alone. Moseh and Aaron left the relative safety of Western Europe to return to protect my grandparents. They were rewarded for their devotion by being murdered with them in the crematoria of Auschwitz.

While my parents hated anything that related to the Nazis and, by extension, Germany and the people there who had been complicit in the horrors of the 1930s and 40's, their response to the gruesome acts of the Nazis was to endeavor to treat every human being that they encountered with respect, decency and dignity - and they succeeded in doing so every day for the rest of their lives.

Of the many stories I could tell you that underscore this fact, I will share this one: One morning while my brother and I were sitting shiva for my mother in her home, there was a knock at the door. It was the Con-Ed man who had come to read the meter. My wife took him into the kitchen so he could do his job. He asked what was going on in the apartment. My wife explained that my mother had died and that we were observing a period of mourning during which friends, relatives and neighbors would come by to offer condolences. He came out to tell my brothers and me what an amazing woman my mother was. Even in my mother's last months, when she was obviously in great pain, she would always greet him with a smile, offer him some juice and make him feel that he was important - not just someone who

was intruding on her time and space, as so many others did. He told us that we should be very proud to be her sons, and we are. In fact, we know that we are extremely fortunate to be the sons of two people who saw, and lived through, unimaginable horrors and emerged from the experiences as exemplary human beings.



## Candle Lighter: Louis L Nock in honor of Hersch Nock

Hon. Louis L. Nock, Judge of the Civil Court is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Hersch and Sybil Nock, both of blessed memory. Mr. Hersch Nock was born in Dynow, Poland (ph: "Dinov"), and raised by his parents, Leib and Rivka Nock, in the generations-old Chassidic tradition of their respective families. The town of Dynow was established in the year 1423, and the first Jews appeared there as early as 1552 - refugees of Anti-Semitic persecution in medieval Franco-Germany. Approximately 100 years after seeking refuge in Dynow, the town's Jewish population was nearly decimated at the bloody hands of the Ukrainian Cossack Hetman, Bogdan Chmielnicki. Despite that first holocaust, Jewish life was rebuilt and flourished greatly until September 13, 1939, when the Nazi invasion of Poland made its way into the town at the hands of the German Army's Fifth Infantry Division.

Two days after the invasion - September 15, 1939, which was the second day of Rosh Hashanah - a Nazi SS Unit entered the town and murdered 300 Jews in cold blood: men, women, and children. One hundred of them were burnt to death in their bicentennial-old synagogue, built by the famed Chassidic Master, Rabbi Zvi Elimelech Spira of Dynow. The remaining 200 martyrs were shot to death in a nearby forest. By some miracle, young Hersch; his parents; and his four siblings managed to escape the carnage. Other family members were not as fortunate - among them:

Hersch's uncle and first cousins: Rabbi Israel Moses Einsidler, and Aaron and Mendel Einsidler, Hersch's cousins: Issachar and Isaac Greenbaum, Hersch Puretz, and Meir Idler (who carried the synagogue's Torah Scrolls outside to safety before he and 99 others were burnt to death in the synagogue)

Hersch, his parents, and four siblings left all they had behind and fled east to the nearby Przemysl (ph: "Pshemishel"), which was situated on the Soviet side of Poland (Dynow was on the German

side). There, they resided for a brief period with a Polish business associate of Hersch's father, who felt gratitude toward Hersch's father for not pressing him on business loans that were owed. Afterward, Soviet government officials exiled Hersch's family, and similarly situated Jewish-Polish refugees, further east, to live and work in Siberian labor camps. Thousands of such Jews died from frost and starvation in the nearly two-week long cattle-car rail journey to Siberia. Hersch, his parents, and four siblings survived the torturous journey and spent two years in a Siberian labor camp. After Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, the Polish Government in Exile, in London, petitioned the Soviet government for the release of Polish citizens interned in Siberia. Upon the grant of that petition, Hersch, his parents, and four siblings relocated to a collective farm in the Central Asian Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan, which had a moderate climate, for the duration of the war.

While in Uzbekistan, Hersch's father, Leib Nock, learned that a Jew within the community had committed suicide on account of war and exile-induced depression. At that time he became determined to uplift the spiritual and emotional state of his Jewish brethren by functioning as a rabbi and counselor. Hersch Nock told his son, that every Jew who congregated under Rabbi Leib Nock, survived the war - supported by the faith and inspiration imparted by the Rabbi. Sadly, Rabbi Nock never lived to leave that exile, as he died of pneumonia shortly before the war's end.

Hersch, his mother, and four siblings had planned to return to Dynow after the war; but reports indicated that returning Jews were murdered by Polish Anti-Semites who took possession of Jewish properties left behind by those Jews when they fled the Nazi Holocaust in Poland. Due to the humanitarian efforts of the victorious Allied Forces, Hersch, his mother, and four siblings were relocated to a Displaced Persons Camp established by the Allied Forces in Salzburg, Austria. There, Hersch's oldest sister, Sheva, met and married another Jewish refugee, Chaim Skop, who was himself the last sole Holocaust survivor of his entire family. Through the humanitarian efforts of the Allied Forces, Sheva and her new husband emigrated to what would soon become the State of Israel, becoming two of the builders of the Israeli City of Netanya - today, a gem



**Hersch Nock**

on the Mediterranean. Hersch, his mother, and remaining three siblings emigrated to the United States through the humanitarian efforts of the Allied Forces, settling in Philadelphia. There, Hersch met his wife, Sybil (daughter of Louis and Elsie Dubin), who served as a corporal in the United States Army Signal Corps based in Philadelphia. That fact is remarkable, as it was her office that was involved in the resettlement of Jewish war refugees in the Philadelphia area. As Hersch used to tell Sybil all the time, trying to wipe away the tears of Holocaust: "Sweetheart, it took a World War for us to meet each other." And so - the cycle of life continues. Hersch and Sybil Nock lived blissfully together, until their passage, six hours apart, of natural causes, on March 7, 1997. Their son, Judge Louis L. Nock, attributes all his accomplishments in his life to the high moral character and values of his dear departed parents - Hersch and Sybil Nock - the finest human beings he has ever known.

## **Candle Lighters: Lorraine R. Kaufman in Honor of her Parents, Herzka and Tosia Kaufman**

It was a glorious snowfall - more than a foot! I was about 17 and my Dad and I dressed for the bitter cold to shovel the snow around our house. As soon as I got outside I looked at the beautiful snow covering everything - I then took a little fresh snow into my gloved hand and into my mouth. Then I heard my father. "Lorraine," he said "we have to go back inside and talk."

And so we did. Around the warmth and comfort of our kitchen table, my father told me about the death march. "It was the winter of 1944. We were about 4,000 prisoners. We marched for two weeks in the bitter cold and snow. We had no coats, no boots, no food.

We marched from point A to point B and back to point A. After two weeks, there were only 800 men left and I was one of them. Because we had no food, I ate the snow and that is one of the reasons I survived. I don't ever want you to eat snow," he said. And so a Holocaust lesson on an ordinary snowy day.

I had been keenly aware while growing up that my parents were Holocaust survivors and had suffered terribly. The unspeakable horrors were spoken - sometimes in staccato references, sometimes in longer stories filled with tears, and often on holidays like Passover when my father always reminded us that "he and Mom were slaves under Hitler."

My beloved parents of blessed memory, Herzka (Harold) who just died 11 months ago and my mother Tosia (Toby) who died in 1995, suffered beyond anything we, their children, could ever imagine or even pretend to understand.

My mother went into a labor camp called Skarzyisko (SKAR-JISKO) holding onto the hand of her younger sister, Sheindle. They were on a line of girls surrounded by soldiers when suddenly they were separated. My mother screamed, "That's my sister!" The soldier then shot and killed her sister



**Tosia and Herzka Kaufman**

Sheindle, right in front of my mother's eyes. And so began her nightmare that would take her to Bergen Belson concentration camp and then to Allach, a woman's camp down the road from Dachau. The women from Allach were eventually taken to Dachau after Dachau's liberation by the American army. There the women enjoyed slightly better conditions in the barracks previously occupied by Nazi soldiers. And it was in Dachau that Tosia Reichman was waiting on line for food and was spotted by another young survivor named Herzka Kaufman.

My father had been a slave laborer in arbeit lagers, work camps, and concentration camps including Birkenau/Auschwitz, Annaberg, Gleiwitz, Oranienburg and Dachau where Dad was liberated on April 29, 1945 - 70 years ago tomorrow.

My father's goal was to survive. He knew that as long as he could work and be useful to the Germans that he would get more food and live. Whenever the Germans asked for volunteers for work my

father would say he could do “it” regardless of whether he had ever done something or not. “We need a bricklayer”...and my father became a bricklayer. “We need someone to build storehouses”...and so my father became a builder. He never kept his eyes off the goal of survival.

Speaking of my father’s eyes, when my Dad was in his 80’s we, the children, accidentally discovered that Dad had only one eye....this from a man who had operated heavy printing machinery and drove a car. My father then told us the story behind his one eye: in Birkenau, my father helped build food storehouses. He built one of the store houses with a corner that had a false bottom giving him access to food, mostly potatoes, that he would bring back to his bunk and share with the other prisoners. Even though he had done this at other camps, my father’s “false bottom” was discovered and my father so severely beaten that his eye “stroked out.”

There were many Holocaust lessons. Dad would say that if another prisoner died during the night, that the dead body still provided some warmth. And in the morning, the dead man’s share of bread or soup, would be shared by others. Even as he aged, Dad never forgot how hungry he was during those 5 years. When his doctor told him not to fast anymore on Yom Kippur, he said that in the concentration camps he had already fasted a life time of Yom Kippurs. He never forgot that unending, insatiable hunger....he said he starved for 5 years and when he was liberated my father, at 25 years old, weighed about 100 pounds.

Dad would say it wasn’t only that the Germans and their collaborators were violent and cruel but that the violence happened so randomly. “For example,” Dad said, “on the coldest winter nights the prisoners would be awakened at gunpoint; they would be marched outside, told to undress and would stand naked in the freezing cold. Then, randomly, a soldier would choose a number and every nth person was shot and killed. It happened time and time again. My father said that you could die at any moment and when he turned 90 he said, “if you had told me back in 1943 that I would live to 90, I would have laughed ...” My Dad could not even imagine another day let alone a lifetime...

Holocaust lessons were shared with everyone! "Do you know what this is?" Dad would ask while pointing to the number on his arm. He asked every doctor who examined him or every nurse who ever took his blood pressure. He then proceeded to tell the story of his tattoo - the number that he got in Birkenau.

My father said during those 5 years of great suffering, he never cried - not even once.

Crying meant no hope; crying meant death. But once the war over, my parents discovered they were sole survivors of their families and there were plenty of tears to go around. My mother's 9 brothers and sisters and her parents were murdered. Her small village of Pacanow (POTCHANOV) in Poland so decimated that all the survivors would more than fit into one small picture.

My father grew up in a much larger town called Sosnowiec (SOS-NO-VIETZ) in Poland which is just a stone's throw away from the nefarious Auschwitz concentration camp. His parents and 2 siblings were killed; another sibling who had survived the war would later die along with her infant son when her ship was sunk by the British in the port of Haifa, Israel.

My courageous parents had a tremendous decision to make - first individually and then together. They chose love and life over bitterness and anger. Less than a year after liberation, on March 5, 1946, my parents were married. My brother David was born in Germany in 1948. My parents arrived in America on September 4, 1949. My sister Miriam was born in 1952 and I came along in 1957. All of us carry names of those murdered in the Holocaust.

My parents had 3 children and 3 grandchildren. My parents' years of suffering and anguish never diminished their love for all of us or for each other.

As we buried my father in May of 2014, I thought how blessed my father was to live to see 3 great grandchildren and to die in peace. I also felt so blessed to have a yartzeit date and a place to lay a stone to mark his life. These simple things like a gravesite or a yahtzeit date were denied my mother and father's families. Never again! dear G-d. Never again.

**Candle Lighters: Molly Pomerance, wife of retired Judge Seymour Schwartz, honoring her uncle and aunt, Dicza and Sirena Epstein, and Seymour Schwartz in honor of his aunt and uncle, Helen and David Farkas**

**Molly Pomerance:**

In 1938 I was living in Warsaw with my parents. Close by lived my grandparents on my mother's side, and my mother's brother Dicza and his wife Nina. My father was a British subject; he'd escaped from Bolshevik Russia in 1920 and settled in England where he had a brother. We lived in Warsaw because my father, in partnership with a partner living in London, represented Dunlop and Firestone, and Warsaw was the base for his European business travels.

The war began to affect other parts of Europe .. not yet Warsaw. The radio was full of news about Czechoslovakia. The adults had to have listened, but I had no idea what was going on. The word "Jew" meant nothing to me. We were not a religious family. My father always said he had enough of that in the shtetl, which he left at the age of 10.

In March of 1939 my father went to London on business. Upon his arrival, his partner was shocked to see him without his family. In the UK they knew more than we, who were in the thick of things, knew. He strongly urged my father to bring his family, all of them, to London. As a British subject, my father could have saved everyone in the family. He telephoned my mother in Warsaw, and she took me and went to London. Before she left her mother said, "He is your husband, so you have to go. But he is crazy, we are not in any danger. We stay."

A few months later, my parents returned to Warsaw to try to persuade my grandparents and Aunt Nina and Uncle Dicza to join them in England. Again they refused. I don't know to this day why my parents were not able to convince them of their mortal danger. I suppose it is very hard to believe the unimaginable. My grandparents and Aunt Nina were confined in the Ghetto. But soon my elderly grandparents were sent to Auschwitz, and my aunt would not leave them. They were all murdered. My Uncle Dicza, with other young men, went underground, where they survived the war only to be captured

by the Russians when it ended. by the Russians when it ended.

Dicza, a bio chemist, was sent to work in a Russian candy factory. He had no contact with anyone except his factory colleagues. He did not know what had happened to his family.

We in the UK knew nothing either. We assumed everyone was dead. My mother paced the floor endlessly, sobbing. She was very close to her mother. She knew she would never see her parents and Nina again.

Dicza escaped the factory. He was caught. I can only imagine the courage and desperation that enabled him to escape again. This time he made it to Paris, where a cousin of my father's lived as a correspondent to the Observer, a major English newspaper. He contacted her. She called us. When my mother heard that it was her brother calling, she fainted to the floor. The next day she went to Paris.

My father arranged for Dicza to get a job in England in his field. He stayed with us, and I adored him. He was amazingly full of humor. I noticed that when he ate anything it was finished to the last scrap. He could not bear waste, and ate a grapefruit, pits and all. He told me many stories of his youth but never talked about the war. Many years later when his nightmares became so violent that he would wake up screaming, a therapist advised him to write of his experiences. I have not had the courage to read his book, which has been translated from the Polish.

After coming to live with us Dicza married again, a young French woman named Sirena whom he met in Paris. Sirena was Jewish and a child therapist. She and her brother Henri had both been members of the French Resistance, Sirena a courier. At sixteen she was adorable, blond, red cheeked, curvy. She had the innocent face of an angel, the kind of face an authority would not suspect of masking serious purpose. But the Germans caught her towards the end of the war, and, her son tells me, they tortured her. She was sent to Dachau, survived, and when the war ended was released by the Allies.

Many years later my husband and I visited Sirena and Dicza in the South of France, where they'd settled. We took the train "Grand Vitesse" from Paris to Avignon, where we were greeted by two beaming people pushing luggage carts. It was the anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, and on the

journey down my husband and I had struck up a conversation with an American who had landed on D Day on Omaha Beach We introduced him to my aunt and uncle. Sirena threw her arms around his neck and kissed him on both cheeks. "You Americans, you saved us," she said. This moved me very much.

Sirena received all the various honors and privileges that the French afforded after the war to the brave few who fought in their Resistance. When she was extremely

old, a final *Honneur* was presented to her by the mayor of her village. With a posse of Foreign Legion veterans looking on, Sirena, then in a wheelchair, was presented with a huge medal and enormous bouquet. The entire village attended the ceremony.

#### **Seymour Schwartz:**

My Uncle David was not a large man and he had a deformed hand. But what he lacked in physical strength, he more than made up for in psychological toughness. After being raised by relatives, at a young age he had set off alone for Paris, walking and hitching wagon rides.

Once he got there, his strong sense of social justice led him to the Communist movement, back then linked to the Zionist movement, and he decided to go to Palestine. However, the British mandate did not allow single men to immigrate.

Without hesitation, Uncle David wrote to a woman from his hometown near Szatmar, close to the border of Czechoslovakia, who was known as a "good woman," who had a lot of daughters.



**Dicza and Sirena in the south of France**

He asked if one of the daughters would come to Paris, marry him, and go to Israel. The “good woman” he wrote to was my grandmother. Helen was the youngest of her 11 children, and ready for adventure. She traveled to Paris accompanied by her older sister, Estie, assigned to chaperone her. Once there, she married David. Estie met and married a prosperous non-Jewish Hungarian named Lojas (Loyosh).

David and Helen dredged swamps on a Kibbutz for a year, and my cousin Madeleine was born there in 1936. David developed a serious lung problem, and the family went back to Paris. There they started a button-hole business in a little apartment on Rue de Tracy, sharing their cramped space with a clattering multitude of sewing machines.

David worked with increasing commitment for the French underground as the Nazis steadily approached Paris. One afternoon, he learned that the moment had come when there was absolutely no time left. He ran home, grabbed my three-year-old cousin Madeleine, my Aunt Helen, a suitcase and their passports, and ran to the train station, where their Czech passports allowed them to board the train said to have been the last train out of Paris. They passed as Czech refugees, because Jews were not allowed onto the train.

In the south of France, they found the meeting place where fleeing Jews had assembled and were making plans to disperse to different towns, not telling anyone they were Jewish. They ended up in Marciac, close to the Pyrenees. At first the three of them slept in a pig sty. But eventually a townswoman, who throughout the war believed that they were Czech, lodged them in her unused back room.

In Marciac, Madeleine went to Catholic school, not suspecting she was Jewish. David worked for a pig farmer, and Helen cleaned houses. Toward the end of the six years they were in Marciac, Madeleine was to take First Communion with her Catholic classmates, but Aunt Helen invented a ruse to prevent her.

Nazis patrolled Marciac regularly, and the family hid in the pig sty or a closet. One time, David



was marched away to a holding center for Jews. There, a doctor was sorting those who could work from those who, due to illness or disability, could not. The latter would be murdered. The doctor forced to perform this unspeakable triage was Jewish. Seeing David's deformed hand, he threw open a gate and told David to run as fast as he could.

When the Allies liberated Paris, the family, now including my two-year-old cousin Nicole, returned to the city. With trembling fingers Aunt Helen slipped their old apartment key into their door on Rue Treacy. It is well known that Paris had had its share of collaborators - but what they found when Aunt Helen opened the door was an astonishing sight. Every single thing was untouched, even the thread in the sewing machines.

Uncle David spent the next months tracking down his and Helen's family. Aunt Estie had survived in plain view in a Paris suburb, protected by Lajos (Loy-osh), who, to all appearances, at least, had become a Nazi sympathizer. Neither Estie's neighbors nor the Nazi soldiers and officers enjoying her and Lajos's (Loy-osh's) well-to-do hospitality ever suspected she was Jewish.

David tracked down two teenage nieces of his who had been in Auschwitz. They came to live with him and Helen, helping in the button business. One was so disastrously traumatized by Auschwitz that ultimately she spent most of her life hospitalized in Israel. The other, however, married and had a family.

We were overjoyed, in the Bronx, when we learned that Helen and David and Estie had survived. In 1948 I went to Paris to visit them—the first time I had met them. I found a lovely family who greeted me with an outpouring of warmth. I persuaded Helen and David to come to the United

States, and my own father sponsored them. Helen wanted to see her mother more than anything. The family went to a holding area in the south of France, a tent city, where they waited for six months. Unfortunately, Helen's mother passed away before she got to America.

My cousin, Madeleine's, daughter, my Aunt Helen's granddaughter, Lisa Schreibersdorf, inherited her grandfather David's sense of justice and is the Executive Director of Brooklyn Defender Services, overseeing a staff of 270 people who provide legal representation to those who cannot afford attorneys.



**David and Helen's daughters, Madeleine and Nicole**



**David and Helen Farkas on their 40th anniversary**

## Liberation and Rebirth

The Kleinman Family Holocaust Education Center's exhibit "Liberation and Rebirth," shown during the week of the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony, was small in size and deep in impact. With no more artifacts, documents, and photographs than fit into the span of just a few columns in the 60 Centre Street Rotunda, it gave a searing view of liberation from both sides of the barbed wire, and a picture of the hardships and opportunities facing survivors as they rebuilt their lives.

One of the first cases in the exhibit held the diary, in a bound volume, that Rabbi Isaac Avigdor kept at Mauthausen concentration camp, its pages open to the entry the Rabbi made the day Allied soldiers arrived at Mauthausen. Beginning by noting that he and others in the barracks had not eaten for days, the Rabbi was recording the booming tank and gun shots of liberation by the time his pen reached the middle of the page. Next to the diary was a letter from one of the American soldiers who likely fired some of the rounds heard by Rabbi Avigdor; the young liberator described to his commanding officer the atrocities he and fellow soldiers encountered when they entered the camp. The commanding officer, US Sergeant Bernie Rosenberg, was conjured in the form of his olive military jacket, standing beside the diary and letter.

An infant's shirt whose creamy folds looked like they might be warm from an iron, ready to enclose a baby of today, occupied another case. Faiga Itzkowitz, a concentration camp survivor, hand-stitched the garment for her newborn son Yaakov while she was in Heidenheim displaced persons camp. Close to the hand-sewn shirt were scores of handwritten visa applications filed by Holocaust orphans hoping to be welcomed into families abroad. As delicate as little Yaakov's infant shirt looked, with his mother's skillful gathers and its tiny white buttons, accompanied by the orphans' applications it stood as a fiercely primal symbol of a people's survival and rebirth.



**Yaakov Itzkowitz with the baby shirt sewed by his mother, Faiga Itzkowitz**



**Justice Peter Moulton reads survivors' biographies**



**Rabbi David Avigdor with his father, Rabbi David Avigdor's diary**



**Ceremony attendees read a letter received by Sergeant Rosenberg describing the horrors the 11th Battalion encountered as they entered Mauthausen.**



**Bill Rosenberg with his father, US Sgt. Bernie Rosenberg's, uniform**



**Judge Martin Shulman with keynote speaker Martin Greenfield**

*Gender Fairness Committee  
New York County Criminal Court*

**Hon. Hon. Melissa A. Crane, 2016 Chair**

**Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, 2015 Chair**

Janet M. Curley, 2015-16 Co-Chair

## **New York County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee**

Chairs: *Hon. Melissa A. Crane* (2016), *Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff* (2015) and *Janet M. Curley*  
Members – *We have approximately 40 members from the NYC Criminal Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Legal Aid Society, Neighborhood Defenders Services, and the New York County Defender Services. List is attached.*

Counties Served: *New York County*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *April 1; May 18; January 12; and February 3. In addition, sub-committees met independently to plan programs.*

Average Attendance: *12*

Do you use Videoconferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? *Yes*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *We increased committee membership by extending invitations to the DA's Office, and also to attorneys from the Legal Aid Society, the New York County Defender Services, and Neighborhood Defender Services.*

### **2015 Special Events**

Special Events or Activities in 2015:

- *2015/2/25 LGBT & the Criminal Justice System*
- *2015/3/19 Women in Prison: Before, During, After – cosponsored*
- *2015/10/5 Elder Abuse - cosponsored*

Average number or range of the number of people who attended events/programs: *75*

### **Special Event Marketing**

How were your special events advertised or marketed? *Email and Flyers*

Who and how many attended? *Court personnel, and attorneys affiliated with the criminal law practice*

Was there any press before or after? *No*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016?

Special Events & Educational Programs

- *Scheduled:*
  - *2016/3/9 Promoting Justice: Legal Issues Facing Transgendered Persons, Part 1*
  - *2016/3/16 Promoting Justice: Legal Issues Facing Transgendered Persons, Part 2*

- *In Development:*
  - *Counterfeit Culture*
  - *Alternatives to Incarceration*
  - *Domestic Violence in the LGBTQ Community*
  - *Domestic Violence in the Asian Community*
  - *Financial Literacy for Women*
  - *Treatment Options for Women in Criminal Court*

### **Concerns**

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016?  
*Please see the above programs.*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women?

- *Defendants often come in with their children because there is a lack of daycare in the court*
- *Language access/interpreters - availability, quality, or general usage of interpreters, both within and outside of the courtroom. Criminal court lacks access to interpreters for speakers of languages that are not as commonly found in New York - e.g., certain Chinese dialects, African languages, Hebrew, and South American languages like Quechua.*
- *More resources for domestic violence victims, and also victims of substance abuse.*

Do you see unmet training needs? *No*

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? *Non-Violence and Peaceful Conflict Resolution Series*

Would online viewing or videoconferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real-time on your desktop computer? *Yes*

### **Collaboration**

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

*New York City Women's Bar Association and the Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee*

Is there anything else you would like to submit? *Yes. Attached are the following: 1) list of gender fairness committee members; and 2) 2015 program flyers*

**NYC Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee Members – 2015 to 2016**

Ahmed Almodallal  
Katherine Bajuk  
Leah Branch  
Xiomara Hinestroza Bryson  
Michelle Carmon  
James G. Clynes  
Caitlin Connolly  
Bryan Connor  
Hon. Melissa Crane  
Dawn Cunningham  
Janet Curley  
Casey Dalporto  
Elizabeth D'Antonio  
Hon. Bruna DiBiase  
Hon. Erika Edwards  
Elizabeth Fischer  
Alice Fontier  
Cristina Garcia  
Alana Gardner  
Steven Golden  
Amanda Goun  
Michelle Villasenor-Grant  
Rebecca Heinsen  
Sarah Kaufmann  
Matthew Knecht  
Bonnie Laurie  
Rachel Levy  
Melissa Livingston  
Darlene Moore McNeil  
Mauline Murrell  
Belinda Piters  
Hon. Joanne D. Quinones  
Hon. Raja Rajeswari  
Renee Reddick  
Judith Rifkin  
Kelli Sheppard-Small  
Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff  
Hon. Steven M. Statsinger  
Cori Weston  
Regan Williams  
Shehre Yaseen

# NYC Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee

*Co-sponsors:*  
NYWBA Committee on Criminal Law  
Assigned Counsel Plan of the Appellate Division, First Department

*Present*

# **LGBT** and the **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**Date:** Wednesday February 25, 2015  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
**Location:** NYC Criminal Court  
100 Centre Street,  
Room 535  
**CLE:** 1 CLE Credit  
**Cost:** Free

*Featuring*

**Moderator, Hon. Steven M. Statsinger**  
Judge, New York County Criminal Court

**Katie Doran**  
Advisor to the District Attorney for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Issues

**Marc Levine**  
Founder, Gay/Straight Alliance of the New York State Unified Court System

**Justine M. Luongo**  
Attorney in Charge of the Criminal Practice, Legal Aid Society

**Michael Pasinkoff**  
Deputy Chief of the Hate Crimes Unit for the Manhattan DA's Office



*Co-sponsors:*  
NYWBA Committee on Criminal Law  
NYC Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee  
NY Criminal Bar Association  
Assigned Counsel Plan of the Appellate Division, First Department

*Present*

# **WOMEN IN PRISON: BEFORE, DURING, AFTER**

**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2015  
**Time:** 5:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** NYC Civil Court  
111 Centre Street,  
Room 107  
**CLE:** 2 CLE Credits  
**Cost:** Free  
**RSVP:** Register at [nywba.org](http://nywba.org): click on calendar

*Featuring*

**Moderator, Hon. Melissa C. Jackson**, Administrative Judge of the Criminal Court of NYC

**Tamar Kraft-Stolar**

Women in Prison Project Director, Correctional Association of New York

**Kerry Cooperman**

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

**Nathan Z. Dershowitz**

Dershowitz, Eiger & Adelson, P.C.

**Susan Gottesfeld**

Associate Executive Director, The Osborne Association

**Donna Hylton**

Community Health Advocate, St. Luke's Hospital

*Light refreshments will be served*

# NYWBA

## NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

*Co-sponsors:*

NYWBA Matrimonial & Family Law Committee  
NYWBA Criminal Law Committee  
NYWBA Elder Law & Disabilities Committee  
NYWBA Domestic Violence Committee  
NY Criminal Bar Association  
Impact Center for Public Interest Law at New York Law School  
Assigned Counsel Plan of the Appellate Division, First Department  
The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Chapter of New York Law School

*Present*

# ELDER ABUSE

**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2015  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** New York Law School  
185 West Broadway  
(between Leonard & Worth)  
New York, NY  
**CLE:** 1.5 CLE Credits  
**Cost:** Free  
**RSVP:** Register at [nywba.org](http://nywba.org): click on calendar

*Featuring*

**Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Moderator**  
Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Violence cases

**Hon. Judy Harris Kluger**  
Executive Director, Sanctuary for Families

**Arlene Markarian**  
Chief, Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Unit, Kings County District Attorney's Office

**Professor Ann Goldweber**  
Director of Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic

*Reception to follow*

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

**Hon. Gloria Dabiri, Chair**

## **Supreme Court Kings County Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term**

Chair(s): *Gloria M. Dabiri, Justice, Supreme Court*

Members – *Hon. Rachel Adams, Hon. Sylvia Ash, Hon. Betsy Barros, Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix, Hon. Lawrence Knipel, Hon. Karen B. Rothenberg, Hon. Marsha Steinhardt, Hon. Nancy Sunshine, Hon. Delores Thomas, Hon. Wavny Toussaint, Hon. Michelle Weston, Major Luz Bryan, Lucinda Disalvo, Donna Farrell, Gunwant Gill, Esq., Pamela Goldsmith, Mary Griffith, Izetta Johnson, Grace Machuca, Yvonne Marin, Esq., Jeanette Mercedes, Esq., Carmen Mitchell, Shirley Paul, Esq., Roderick E. Randall, Leah Richardson, Noreen Soto-Fier, Esq.,*

Counties Served: *Kings*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *January 16, 2015; February 10, 2015; March 18, 2015; April 7, 2015; September 24, 2015. Most of the Committee's work is performed in subcommittees.*

Average Attendance: *6*

Do you use Videoconferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? *Yes*

### **2015 Special Events**

*Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015: A Healthy Relationship Workshop open to all court staff was held on Thursday October 9, 2015, from 1:00- 2:00pm. Three facilitators from the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy & the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence conducted an interactive workshop with participants. The workshop addressed dating violence and fostering healthy relationships, the components of a healthy relationship, positive and assertive communication, and warning signs of an abusive partner. Parents and guardians of teenage children were encouraged to attend.*

*Activities for Women's History Month 2015: In keeping with the National Women's History Month 2015 Theme -- Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives -- the Committee encouraged 14 court employees to publish essays on their personal stories reflecting upon a woman who impacted his or her life. Newsletters ran on the courthouse's Employee Space website on following dates: March 3, 2015, March 9, 2015, March 18, 2015, March 25, 2015. Hardcopies of essays were showcased in a glass cased display in the courthouse and emailed to all Supreme Court staff.*

*A reception was held on March 31, 2015, 1:00-2:30pm at which more than 75 people participated and during which the essayists presented their work. Refreshments were sponsored by the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association. The essayists included: Wilesca Belhomme (Paralegal Intern), Sheldon Charles (Court Officer), Oscar Chmiel (Fifth Grade Son of*

*Court Officer), Carolyn E. Demarest (Justice of the Supreme Court), Gunwant Gill (Assistant Law Clerk), Lawrence Knipel (Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, 2nd Judicial District), Evelyn Laporte (Justice of the Supreme Court), Grace Machuca (Management Analyst), Consuelo Mallafre (Principal Law Clerk), Mark Levine (Court Clerk), Lillian Ortiz (Custodian), Francois Rivera (Justice of the Supreme Court), Debra Silber (Justice of the Supreme Court), Noreen Soto-Fier (Court Attorney Referee).*

Other Special Events or Activities in 2015:

- *BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY “#MPOWER: Knowledge + Choice = Strength”: On April 8, 2015, 8:30am-4:00pm the Committee sponsored the court's annual Bring Your Child to Work Day. Presenters included MED Troop, NYC Office of Emergency Management, the Fire Department of the City of New York, and court personnel. The program was open to children of court employees, ages 7 – 14. Approximately 45 children attended this year's event. An article of the event was published in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle on Friday, April 10, 2015 including 7 photos of participants and their children.*
- *IZETTA JOHNSON RECOGNITION CEREMONY: On August 12, 2015 the Committee hosted a retirement and "Thank You" luncheon for Ms. Izetta Johnson, committee member and director of the Supreme Court (civil and criminal terms) Summer Youth Employment Program. More than 90 people -- students, committee members and court employees participated. Administrative Judges Hon. Lawrence Knipel and Hon. Mathew Demic sponsored refreshments and interns and committee members donated homemade baked goods. Ms. Johnson, a Senior Management Analyst had worked in the courts for more than 35 years and held the position of Equal Employment Opportunity Director and Coordinator of the Court's community outreach.*

### **Special Event Marketing**

How were your special events advertised or marketed? *Email, Mail, Flyer, Employee Space webpage for Kings County Supreme Court employees*

Who and how many attended? *Court employees and Brooklyn community.*

Was there any press before or after? *Yes*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016? *Defer to new committee Chairperson*

Meetings: *Defer to new committee Chairperson*

### **Collaboration**

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

*Bar Associations, Colleges, Domestic Violence Organizations, New York City Mayor's Office*

Is there anything else you would like to submit? *Yes, see attached documents.*

Supreme Court Kings County Gender Fairness Committees



# BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Supreme Court  
Criminal & Civil Terms Program  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

AGES: 7-14

“ #MPOWER: Knowledge + Choice = Strength ”

## ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

- \* EMPOWER YOURSELF AT WORK - "Interviewing and Observing Your Parents At Work"
- \* MPOWER YOURSELF AT HOME - "Emergency Preparedness"
- " MPOWER YOURSELF IN YOUR COMMUNITY - "CPR 101"  
Photographs in Judge's Robe "

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Lunchtime Social - \*\* \$5.00 each lunch

\*\* \$2.00 each photo

ALL Employees MUST obtain prior approval from their supervisor

Children MUST be accompanied by Parent, Guardian or Sponsor

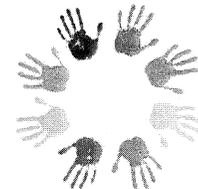
NO Escorts will be provided. You must make your own arrangements for a sponsor/escort

Program is open to court personnel ONLY

ALL Participants MUST Pre-Register

**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN)**  
**NYC STUDENTS ARE OUT OF SCHOOL ON THIS DATE**  
**KOSHER FOR PASSOVER SNACKS PROVIDED**

**REGISTRATION**  
**DEADLINE EXTENDED:**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**



To Register or Volunteer Contact:

320 JAY STREET

Izetta Johnson

X61231

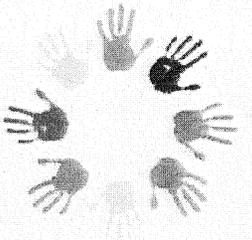
Rm. 13.68

360 ADAMS STREET

Yvonne Marin

X61564

Rm. 1058



# BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Wednesday, April 8, 2015  
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.

## #MPower: Knowledge + Choice = Strength

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 Distributions of Goody Bags		320 Jay Street - Rm. 2.95
ALL	9:30 - 9:40	Welcome Remarks	Deputy Admin. Judge Danny Chun Hon. Patricia Henry Chief Clerk Dan Alessandrino	320 Jay Street - Rm. 2.95
ALL	9:45 - 10:45	CPR 101	Capt. Davis, MED TROOP	320 Jay Street - Rm. 2.95
ALL	11:00 - 12:00	Fingerprinting	Karen Gillen, Chris Tropea	320 Jay Street - Rm. 17.36

### 12:00 - 2:00 SOCIAL LUNCHEON w/ Honorable Sylvia Hinds-Radix

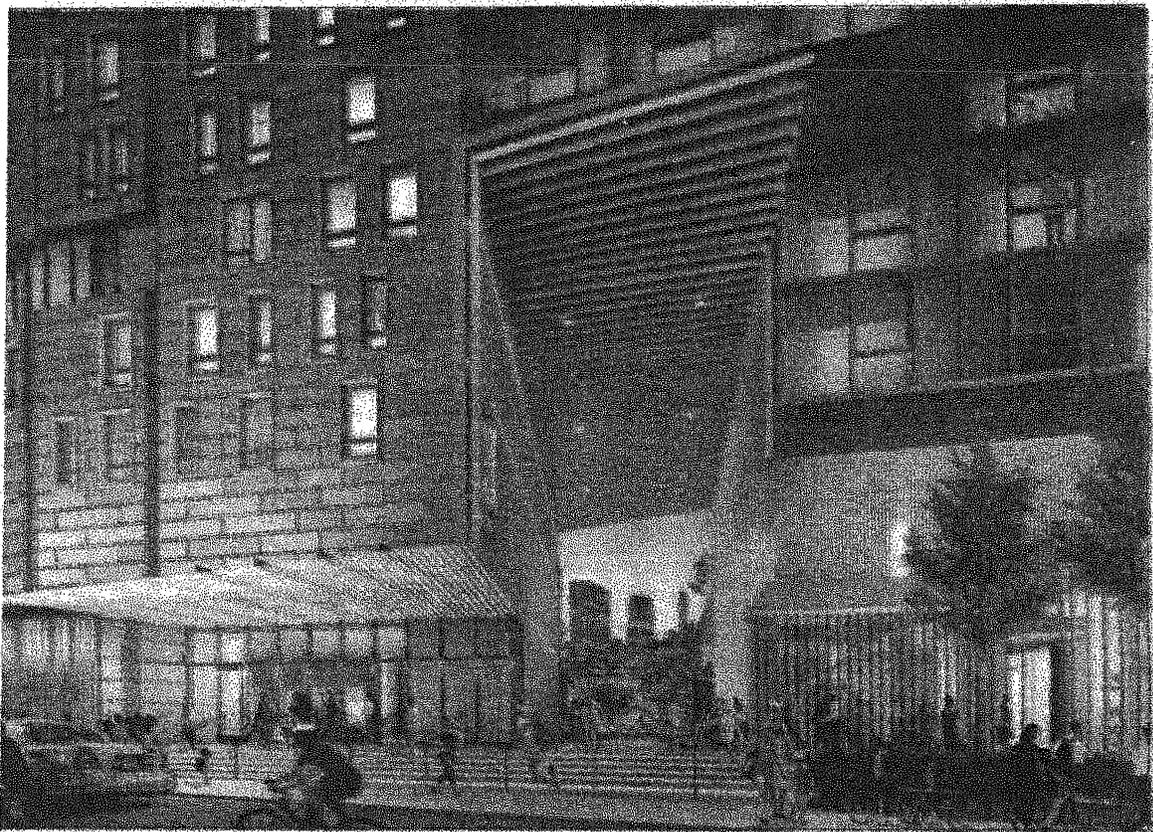
AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS - 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn New York

AGE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER	LOCATION
ALL	2:00 - 2:15	Afternoon Welcome	Admin Judge Lawrence Knipel Hon. Gloria Dabiri Chief Clerk Charles Small	360 Adams Street - Room 956
ALL	2:20 - 3:00	Youth Emergency Preparedness	Katie James, Office of Emergency Management	360 Adams Street - Room 956
ALL	3:00 - 4:00	Fire Power	Capt. Smith, FDNY	360 Adams Street - 11 flr BDRM

4:00

THANKS FOR COMING

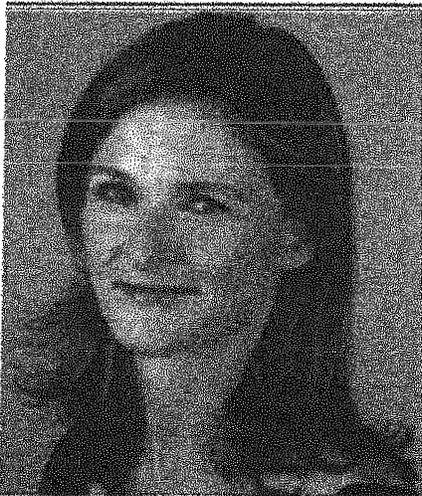
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR



## In Spite of Controversy, 'Marvelous' Heights Architect Leads Transformative Projects

RENDERING SHOWS BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK ACCESS VIA NEW RETAIL AND PUBLIC ASSEMBLY AMENITIES ON FURMAN STREET. AS SO MUCH attention has been focused on the rooftop treatment of the Pierhouse buildings, many forget that the ground-level treatments will bring life to a long-barren Furman Street. "You need to imagine this as a replacement for the old Cold Storage Warehouses, which sat there for a long time," one observer noted. "And this is quite an improvement for Brooklyn Bridge Park." See page 2.

Rendering courtesy of Marvel Architects



## Justice Clark Named President of BAM

SEE PAGE 3



**Bring Your Kids to Work Day at B'klyn Supreme Court:** Hon. Laura Lee Jacobson, Yvonne R. Marin with her son Reece, Izetta Johnson and Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix (l. to r.) enjoyed Bring Your Child to Work Day, a special opportunity organized by the Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee that encouraged court employees and their kids to participate in several activities, including a mock trial. See page 20.

# Work Day at Brooklyn Supreme Court

See story on page 20



Court employees had an opportunity to bring their kids with them to work for the day where they were treated to lunch, learned CPR, participated in a mock trial and got their fingerprints taken. Pictured are Veronica B. Martin and her son, Blake.



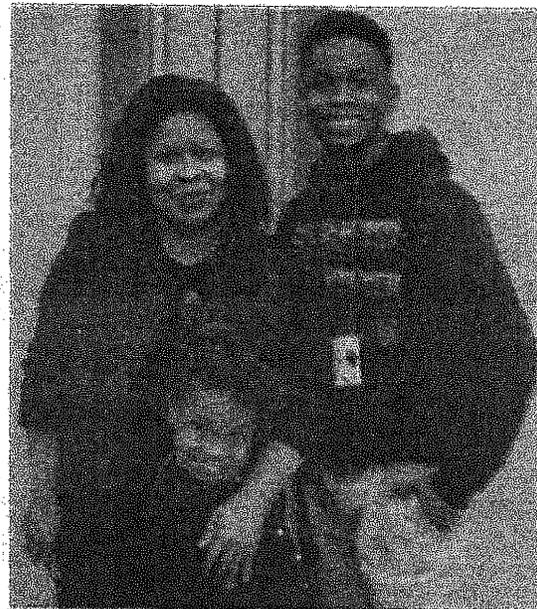
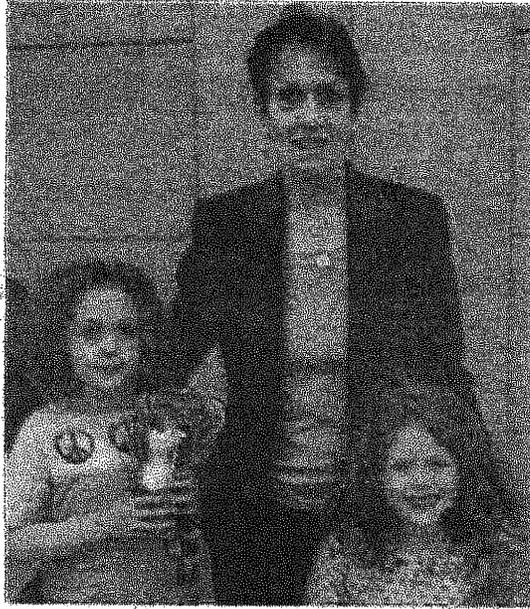
Guilt of being Cifer, Caroline and her tiger testify with the support of friends, Ariel and sister Georgia.

Explanations by Rob Abruzzese



The Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee hosted its annual Bring Your Child to Work Day program at the Kings County Supreme Court on Wednesday. Shown are court employees Justice Stern and her 10-year-old son, Isaac.

### Bring Your Kids to Work Day At Brooklyn Supreme Court



Hon. Laura Lee Jacobson with her granddaughters Caroline and Georgia. Charmaine Johnson with her grandchildren Ariel and Armani.

By Rob Abruzzese  
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

**DOWNTOWN** — The Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee hosted its annual Bring Your Child to Work Day program at the Kings County Supreme Court on Wednesday.

All court employees had an opportunity to bring their kids with them to work for the day where they were treated to lunch, learned CPR, participated in a mock trial and got their fingerprints taken.

"They got a chance to learn what their parents do," said Hon. Laura Lee Jacobson. "It's one thing

when you tell them that you work in a court, but they don't really know what that means. This gives them a chance to learn about it and also the many different jobs that are performed here."

It's a long tradition at the courthouse, going back to the 1980s. Charmaine Johnson recalled bringing her son to work more than 20 years ago. She said it must have rubbed off on him, because he eventually got a job at a court. Now she brings her grandchildren, 14-year-old Armani and 6-year-old Ariel.

In previous years, a court officer would dress up as a clown and perform magic tricks for the kids. But

these days the mock trial is the highlight. Each role in the courtroom is performed by one of the kids while the judges instruct them on what they're supposed to do. At the end, a jury decides the fate of one of the children.

"It's nice that they have this," said Court Reporter Kelly Swasey. "They've done it several years now. Everybody's favorite part was the mock trial. The children ... played the different jobs, and they went in the back and deliberated and everything. It was so much fun."

Wednesday's verdict? Not guilty.  
See page 19 for additional photos.



Bring Your Child to Work Day is a lasting tradition at the Brooklyn Supreme Court, and has gone on for more than 20 years.

### N. Y. Court Upholds Arrest Despite Pol

By Michael Virtanen  
Associated Press

**ALBANY, N.Y.** — New York's top court has upheld a traffic stop and drunken driving arrest when a policeman made the mistake of pulling over a driver who ran an unauthorized stop sign at the edge of a supermarket parking lot.

The Court of Appeals, divided 6-1, reversed two lower courts. They had concluded the September 2009 stop of Rebecca Guthrie by a

including sobriety tests, should be suppressed and all charges dismissed.

The case now goes back to the village court.

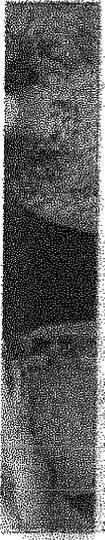
Authorities have conceded Guthrie couldn't be prosecuted for running the stop sign, but they argued the traffic stop was constitutionally justified because the officer believed he saw a violation.

The top court agreed, but said the test is whether a police mistake is based on belief about the law and the facts that's "objectively reasonable," and that an

parking lot must be registered to be valid.

"We are saying that the stop was nonetheless constitutionally justified because the officer was not chargeable with knowing each and every stop sign that was registered under the Newark Village Code," Stein wrote. The code lists 130 of them, she wrote.

She rejected the purported "bright line rule" and supposed predictability as it's been applied in mid-level Appellate Division rulings that police mistakes on the law invalidate traffic stops and evi-



Hon. Laura Lee Jacobson with her granddaughters, Caroline and Georgia.



Charmaine Johnson with her grandchildren Ariel and Armani.

**By Rob Abruzzese  
Brooklyn Daily Eagle**  
**DOWNTOWN** — The Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee hosted its annual Bring Your Child to Work Day program at the Kings County Supreme Court on Wednesday. All court employees had an opportunity to bring their kids with them to work for the day where they were treated to lunch, learned CPR, participated in a mock trial and got their fingerprints taken.

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Wednesday's verdict? Not guilty.  
See page 19 for additional photos.



Bring Your Child to Work Day is a lasting tradition at the Brooklyn Supreme Court, and has gone on for more than 20 years.

# N.Y. Court Upholds Arrest Despite Police Mistake

**By Michael Vinstein  
Associated Press**

**ALBANY, N.Y.** — New York's top court has upheld a traffic stop and drunken driving arrest where a policeman made the mistake of pulling over a driver who ran an unauthorized stop sign at the edge of a supermarket parking lot.

The Court of Appeals, divided 6-1, reversed two lower courts. They had concluded the September 2009 stop of Rebecca Guthrie by a village police officer was unjustified because the sign wasn't properly registered with the village of Newark in Wayne County.

They ruled that the subsequent evidence,

including sobriety tests, should be suppressed and all charges dismissed.

The case now goes back to the village court. Authorities have conceded Guthrie couldn't be prosecuted for running the stop sign, but they argued the traffic stop was constitutionally justified because the officer believed he saw a violation.

The top court agreed, but said the test is whether a police mistake is based on belief about the law and the facts that "objectively reasonable" and that an officer acting simply "in good faith" isn't enough.

Judge Leslie Stein wrote that it wouldn't have been reasonable for the arresting officer to have claimed ignorance of some unclear law that requires stop signs in

parking lot must be registered to be valid.

"We're saying that the stop was nonetheless constitutionally justified because the officer was not disagreeable with knowing each and every stop sign that was registered under the Newark Village Code," Stein wrote. The code lists 130 of them, she wrote.

She rejected the purported "bright line rule" and supposed probability as if it's been applied to mid-level appellate Wisconsin rulings that police mistakes on the law invalidate traffic stops and evidence searches. The Court of Appeals has deannounced it has "no trouble" determining the objective reasonableness of police mistakes, she wrote.

Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and Judges

Suzann Reed, Eugene Pigott, Sheila Abdu Salim and Eugene Fahey agreed.

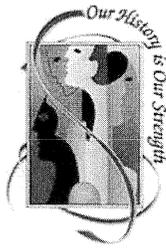
In her dissent, Judge Larry Rivera wrote the police stops based on mistakes in the law viola New York's constitution and cannot provide a required probable cause for valid police stops and seizure. That also promotes precision in predictability in judicial rulings, she wrote.

"If civilians are required to know the law, see no reason for expecting less from the changed with enforcing it," Rivera wrote.

"We should not excuse an error about a basic foundation of an officer's power, or discourage better comprehension of it."

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and  
The Brooklyn Women Society  
MEMBERSHIP: \$100.00 PER YEAR  
Sustaining membership: \$1,000.00 PER YEAR  
Administrative: \$25.00 PER YEAR  
Special Events: \$100.00 PER YEAR  
Keynote Speaker: Ms. Sara Blaisdel  
and with her own business advice and advice  
to help you to succeed in your business and achieve  
a dream. For more information, contact:  
Margaret Taylor  
President of Society  
ALL ARE WELCOME

Eagle photos by Rob Abruzzese



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

**The Supreme Court Kings County  
Gender Fairness Committee, Civil Term and  
Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee  
proudly presents**



**Join us in celebrating the stories of women  
who have significantly impacted our lives.**

**Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 1-2:30PM**

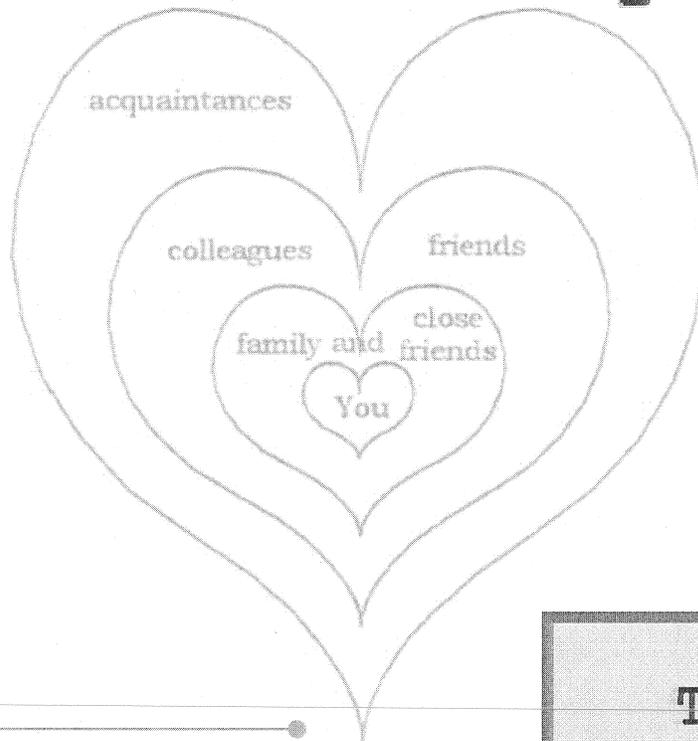
**360 Adams Street, Room 319**

**All welcome – Light Reception to Follow**

The Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee—Civil Term and the  
Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee

Presented by the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy &  
the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

# Healthy Relationship Workshop



- ◆ An interactive workshop on dating violence and fostering healthy relationships
- ◆ Parents of young adults encouraged to attend
- ◆ What is in a healthy relationship?
- ◆ Positive and assertive communication
- ◆ Warning signs of an abusive partner

For more info. contact Gunwant Gill @ 61563

**Thursday**

**October 29th**

**1:00 to 2:00 PM**

**360 Adams Street**

**11th Floor**

**Boardroom**

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*

*Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term*

### **Noreen Soto-Fier**

Court Attorney

Before the "Ban Bossy" campaign encouraged girls to assert themselves as leaders or Sheryl Sandberg penned "Lean In" to share her vision of workplace equality or Malala Yousefzai, a 16 year old school girl, addressed the United Nations General Assembly about women's rights and girls education around the world, young women looked to family, friends and neighbors for inspiration and support in identifying and achieving their goals. Great women are not only famous authors, scholars, and professionals, they are every day women who strive to balance work and family and who inspire future generations to define success in their own terms. Betty Jean Sutton was one of these remarkable women.

Betty lived a few doors down from my family in our apartment building in the Sheepshead Bay Houses. Originally from Hartsville, South Carolina, Betty moved to Brooklyn with her family as a child. She attended Girls High School, married, and had one son. As single parents, my mother and Betty discovered that they had a lot in common and became close friends. We spent many evenings together having dinner, watching football, and talking about school. Betty always encouraged my sister and me to do our best in school and go to college. She believed that education led to greater opportunity.

One of the first things I noticed about Betty was her ability to relate to people and to bring them together. She helped foster a sense of community in our building by looking after

*Stories of  
Women Who  
Have Inspired  
Us*

elderly neighbors and organizing cleaning and decorating efforts around the holidays. She also worked tirelessly to ensure the success of fund raisers and other events at her church.

Like many other women in her generation, Betty was a workplace pioneer. During her nearly 25 year career with New York Telephone, Betty's hard work and determination led her to become one of the few female service supervisors (foremen) managing a

large group of male telephone installers and repair technicians. At a time when assertive and confident women often suffered a backlash in the workplace, Betty was able to overcome obstacles by building trust, fostering relationships, and finding common ground with her male colleagues. Her professional success allowed her to achieve two very important personal goals—to become a homeowner and to travel to Japan. She took great pride in showing me her newly furnished and decorated home and the strand of pearls she purchased as a memento of her trip. Betty showed me that anything is possible, no matter your circumstances. I am grateful for the lessons she taught—to recognize my own strengths and weaknesses, to invest in myself by continuing to learn, to maintain balance in my life, to set clear goals, and to create my own definition of success.

Betty passed away tragically and unexpectedly in 1987. While I never thanked her for encouraging me, for believing in me, for sharing her wisdom, and for treating me with kindness, caring, and immeasurable patience, I hope that sharing her gifts in some way honors her memory.

### **Oscar Chmiel**

Fifth Grader

My name is Oscar Chmiel and I'm a fifth grade student. My mom's name is Anna Chmiel and she is a Court Officer at Brooklyn Supreme Civil Court. She is a single mom and she worked hard to get where she is right now. She always tells me how important it is to try my best and never give up. My mom's "motto" is "whatever you want to achieve, you have to work for it". I know that my mom wants me to get a good education and a good profession later on. That is why it is important now to do my school work right.

In her native country, Poland, my mom completed her Bachelor's degree in juvenile delinquency and started her study toward a Master's

degree. In 2001 she got an opportunity to come to the United States. My mom left her country and her whole family to try a new life in America although she did not know at that time if she was going to stay. My mom came here with little English so started cleaning people's houses, babysitting, and studying English. Then she began to study criminal justice as a transfer student at John Jay College. After I was born, she continued to study. My mom graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2008 with a Bachelor's Degree Summa cum Laude.

My mom always wanted to work for civil service and she started by joining NYPD as a traffic enforcement agent, and then school safety agent. Last year she became a

Court Officer. I was with her when she graduated from the Academy, and it was a special day for both of us. For my mom, as a first generation immigrant, it was some kind of an American dream accomplishment. As for me, I felt very proud of her, and I hope one day she is going to be as much proud of me. I believe this is not the end of her professional journey and it is going to be a good start of my own with the help of her inspiration and an example of her determination. I know already that I have to follow my dreams and reach for the stars.

Thanks, mom!

## Carolyn E. Demarest

Supreme Court Justice

Among the many wonderful teachers (including both men and women, but mostly women) I had growing up in Jamestown, New York (which was noted to be among the ten best school systems in the State at the time), one stands out as having had an enormous impact on my future.

Grace Dorman taught social studies at the middle school level. For three years, from seventh grade until I moved from Junior High to High School beginning with 10th grade, this remarkable lady was my best friend. She somehow took a special interest in me, counseling me about my life decisions and advising me of the options. She even occasionally visited me at home and was very supportive of my single-parent family. Her commitment to her chosen profession, her enthusiasm for the subject-matter of her instruction, and her concern for all of her students and their well-being, were a constant inspiration to me.

Ms. Dorman was in her early thirties and was single. What I remember most vividly of the many conversations we had was one concerning my future vocational plans. To Ms. Dorman's question about my professional aspirations I had replied that that was not a serious question as I planned to "get married". (It was a long time ago). Ms. Dorman gently and patiently explained that sometimes things didn't work out that way and maybe I should consider a more independent future. I took heed of this advice and approached my studies with greater diligence.

Over the years, my professional objectives changed and it wasn't until after I had finished college and actually was married that I chose to study the law, but I never wavered from my purpose to be independent and professionally productive. I feel I owe my success entirely to Ms. Dorman's advice so many years ago. She made me aware of the challenges, and sometimes the disappointments, that life brings and encouraged me to prepare myself for such contingencies. She also gave me confidence that I could succeed and that the effort would be worthwhile. I owe her much more than she could know.

If Ms. Dorman had a motto, I would say it was work hard, do your best and be generous in supporting others.

## Sheldon Charles

Court Officer

There could be no other person in my life who has taught me more about selflessness and the importance of family, than my grandmother, Mary Lee Charles.

Born October 1934 in Bishopville, SC, the first of seven siblings, my grandmother still has the strength of a bull. After marrying my late grandfather, Jim Charles, they moved to Brooklyn, NY where she currently resides. While my grandfather served his country in the US Army, she stayed a housewife raising four daughters. Due to the passing of her husband, she was forced to seek employment. It was Bellevue Hospital, as a dietician aide, where she spent 50 years until retirement.

She has suffered through a lot and never complained, knowing in her heart that she must do what God would want her to do in any given situation. With the passing of her eldest daughter, my mother, my grandmother had to become both roles to my siblings and I.

Growing up as a teenager, she always encouraged me to focus on life and achieve all that I aspired to be. With the motivation she instilled in me, I was able to have a successful career as an Inspector with the Taxi & Limousine Commission for 12 years. Feeling like I had reached my maximum potential there, it was my grandmother who encouraged me to move on to better opportunities. Taking and passing the court officer exam has made her extremely proud. She said seeing me in uniform reminds her of how strong my grandfather was.

She may say I'm the strong one, but when she comes to my job with lunch or just to say hello, I can only wish to be half as strong as her. Not only does she bring lunch for me, she also prepares meals for the seniors in the community daily.

I want to thank you grandmother for all that you are and all that you continue to do.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2015

*Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*

*Issue 1 of 4*

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*

*Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term*

#### **Lawrence Knipel**

Administrative Judge for Civil Matters

Second Judicial District

Of course, the women who have most impacted my life are those closest to me, my mother, wife, daughter and sister. I could easily write about any one of them. But today, I want to write about someone completely unanticipated who added a welcome dimension to the quality of my existence. A woman who in all likelihood has no idea that she impacted my life or the life of anyone else. Her name is Beth Schlossberg and she was my 10th Grade English Teacher.

When I was in 10th Grade, my father was a New York City Police Officer and we lived in a typical working class suburb on Long Island. High School then started in the 10th Grade and on my first day at Hicksville High School, I walked into English class and first laid eyes upon Ms. Schlossberg. She was almost middle-aged and dressed in a ruffled, essentially unkempt manner. She spoke in the direction of the class, but never really to the class. My initial impression, which later proved all too real, was that she would exercise little control over the class.

At that stage in my life, I was a reader, but I preferred nonfiction. History, biography, science all fascinated me. Fiction in my juvenile ideation, was purely for the weak minded. For Ms. Schlossberg, fiction was the world. And she spoke with such passion and conviction that I became a lifelong convert. I moved up to the front row to hear her better in the ever noisy classroom. She never made a real effort to control the class and appeared to have no expectation that 10th Grade students would care about what she had to say. I did. That semester, I remember devouring the major works of Willa Cather, Edith Wharton and others. Ms. Schlossberg spoke only for those who cared to listen. Her passion seemed to emanate from an inner compassion to convey the truth and beauty found in great literature, without regard to who, if anyone, was listening. She taught not for the classroom, but for the ages. It was her passionate sincerity and idealism that opened my eyes to the potential contained in good literature.

Despite participation in classroom discussion, I never spoke to her after class and feel certain that Ms. Schlossberg does not remember me. Maybe in today's testing and evaluation intensive teaching environment, she would have long since been removed for poor classroom management. But she was just what I needed and opened for me a world of great art and beauty which has lasted a lifetime. Although I can't say that an appreciation of literature has helped me get a better job or career, it certainly has brought me joy and made me into a more well-rounded person. This summer, when I plan to make my third attempt to get through James Joyce's "Ulysses", I will at least briefly reflect upon my 10th Grade English Teacher, Ms. Beth Schlossberg.

*"she . . . opened for me a  
world of great art and beauty  
which has lasted a lifetime"*

**Francois Rivera**  
Supreme Court Justice

*"If it is meant to be you  
will find a way"*

My mother was by far the most powerful influence in my life. She never finished high school but was nevertheless profoundly wise. We were incredibly poor and lived in El Barrio with my father and sister in a small apartment. It was she who convinced my father to send me and my sister to Catholic grammar school by persuading him that it would better prepare us for the future. The tuition was an enormous sacrifice which she bore by carefully managing my father's earning as a waiter. She encouraged me to believe that I was a unique creation of God with limitless potential.

She took me to the Aguilar Public Library in Spanish Harlem on a weekly basis and taught me to appreciate books and the adventures they contained. While in grammar school, she took me to Central Park to watch free performances of Shakespearean plays. She also would take my sister and me to the museums where we learn about art, history and various cultures. In an effort to increase our vocabulary, she created a dictionary game in which she would read the definition of a word and have us guess what the word was for points. By the time I was in third grade, I possessed a vast vocabulary and was the top student in my class.

My favorite of her sayings came about when I first discovered that we were poor. I learned this shocking fact in high school when I got to see where and how my classmates lived. When I asked her how I would ever be able to become a professional since we had no money for college, her response was simple: "Money is no object because you don't have any." "If it is meant to be you will find a way."

She still, to this day, continues to encourage me to dream big and to be the best that I can be. She has a deep faith in God and actively practices her religion. Now she is 82 years old and moves a little slower. However, her faith, optimism and encouragement continues to spur

**Lillian Ortiz**  
Custodian

My aunt, Maria Santiago, was born in Puerto Rico and is one of seven children – all girls. To me she has always been my mother's "big sister". My aunt is an independent person who raised three children, pretty much, on her own. She also took care of me until I was eight years old. My aunt retired after fifteen years as a factory worker.

Aunt Maria is a no-nonsense, generous, and outgoing person. Everyone in her neighborhood knows her. People often gather on her porch just to talk. I look forward to my yearly visits to Yauco, Puerto Rico to spend time with aunt Maria. She always meets me at the airport and expresses how happy she is to see me. She is sure to make my favorite meals – lasagna and rellenos de papa (baked potato with ground beef). She also arranges interesting and fun things for us to do. For example, last year we visited museums, a factory which manufactures fire trucks, and a coffee factory. Although her resources are limited she does all that she can to make my visits enjoyable.

Aunt Maria's generosity and outgoing personality are traits that I greatly admire, and which I try to emulate in my interactions with others.

## Gunwant Gill

Assistant Law Clerk

'Selfless' best describes my mother Harpal Gill. During my youth, I saw the sacrifices my mother made for me but it is only now, in adulthood, that I appreciate their enormity.

Leaving her family and friends to move to Canada was perhaps my mother's greatest sacrifice. At the age of 33, she left a pleasant and comfortable life in India to immigrate to North America with my father. The rocky mountains and evergreens of British Columbia were a far cry from the cotton and corn fields of her hometown in Punjab. My mother quickly acclimated to her new surroundings. She found two jobs on her third day in the country. Thanks to my mother's sacrifice, I grew up in an amazing country with limitless educational opportunities, resources and diversity.

By her incredible spirit and values she has profoundly shaped who I am today. Through her words and example she has shown me how to live a robust life. Thanks to my mother at my core resides an unwavering belief in myself. My mother instilled in my sister and me, the importance of self-confidence at an early age. It is this ingrained belief in my talents and abilities that has been my compass at every big step and even misstep in my life. I believe the gift of self-confidence helped me avoid the pitfalls of adolescence that arise from internal doubts and societal pressures.

My mother has always radiated positivity and tranquility. Complaining has never been part of her repertoire. From the mundane to the monumental, she has taken every setback in life with stride and faced every moment with positivity. As I faced my own challenges in transitioning from Canada to the US, I drew strength from my mother's bottomless well of positivity. Her life's motto is to "embrace the very act that scares or intimidates you." As she put it, confronting one's fears is the best way to grow as a person. She encouraged me to do so at an early age. Whether it was trepidation in learning how to ride a two-wheel bicycle or moving away to college or my first job, my mother's words have been a source of encouragement and inspiration.

Her impact on my life far surpasses the moniker of motherhood. She was, and continues to be, my teacher, confidant, best friend, role model and hero.

*"embrace the very act that  
scares or intimidates you"*

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2015

*Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*

*Issue 2 of 4*

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*

*Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term*

**Consuelo Mallafre**  
Principal Law Clerk

*"... we left our family and possessions,  
but ... kept intact our hopes, dreams,  
aspirations and intellect"*

No woman has had a more positive impact on my life than my mother, Edna Mallafre. She was fearless, progressive, practical, and a problem solver. My mother was born and raised in southeastern Cuba to a family prominent in the town where she lived and in the capital city of that region. Her father had an MD degree but his love of animals governed his choice to go into veterinary medicine. Her mother was raised in America and taught English in high school in Cuba. My mother and father had a storybook romance and married when she finished college. She obtained a degree in Education and taught grade school for a couple of years before leaving Cuba.

Fidel Castro came into power when she was a young married woman with me as a baby. While the island country was reveling in Castro's victory and his overthrow of the previous government, my mother saw that all was not as rosy as the new government would depict. My mother became aware that some children were being sent to camps in the sugar cane fields on the pretext that they would learn about the agricultural industry. My mother wanted her children to enjoy the freedoms of speech, thought, and religion that she knew America offers but in Cuba Castro would in time take away. She wanted her children to receive an education and be free to live the life we would in time choose for ourselves. This insight was the impetus for a young family's flight from Cuba at my mother's insistence and my father's acquiescence. My family of four (my sister was a few months old) left Cuba after government interrogations and strip searches. We left our family and possessions, but my mother always said we kept intact our hopes, dreams, aspirations and intellect.

Ironically, although my grandmother was an English teacher, my mother did not understand English when they arrived in America. It proved too much of a luxury for her to go to school to learn the language and then to obtain certifications to teach in the U.S. Instead she went straight to work, as her income was as necessary as my father's was to support us. Both of my parents worked in factories; my father had the day job and my mother worked at night so she would be available to take us to and from school and spend an hour or so with us after school.

Through the years, I watched my mother struggle and work hard so that we could have a better life. She encouraged me and intuitively guided me through my decision to go to law school. She not only stressed the value of education but also the necessity for a woman to be self sufficient and able to financially take care of oneself. My mother's life was an example of perseverance and determination that reminds me quietly of how to lead mine.

**Debra Silber**  
Supreme Court Justice

Carol Bellamy is a woman who has impacted my life in a major way. I joined her campaign for NYC Council President (now Public Advocate) in 1977 to serve as her volunteer coordinator and left her staff a different person. If Carol had a motto, it would be "no matter how down you are, there is someone worse off than you."

After college, Carol joined the Peace Corps and served in Guatemala. She applied to law school while serving, and came home to attend NYU Law School. Less than three years after she graduated, while working at Cravath, Swain and Moore, she successfully ran in 1972 for State Senate in a district that was located here in downtown Brooklyn. Shortly before she ran, she and several friends started an independent democratic club in Brooklyn Heights, now defunct, and she ran on a slate with Michael Pesce, who ran for Assembly the same year.

Even after her district was "gerrymandered" to include lower Manhattan, Carol prevailed in her elections in 1974 and 1976. Then, in the 1977 race, she was the first woman ever elected to a citywide office. There was no end of excitement in the race, which included a primary and a run-off. The women lawyers in New York were an obvious source for volunteers, and they turned out to be terrific role models for me, as I had not considered going to law school before working in this campaign.

After the November election, we moved into transition mode, and then moved into City Hall in January 1978. On her staff, I handled a number of different matters, including arts and cultural affairs, "women's issues," housing and day care center funding. The people selected for her staff, with amazing insight from her chief of staff selecting the right applicants, were people who loved to come to work and achieved wonderful accomplishments.

All these years later, we have regular reunions to learn what the others are up to. Many have had truly illustrious careers. Carol moved on after many years in City government to serve as the Director of the Peace Corps under President Clinton, then was appointed the head of UNICEF, which is a nine-year term. After that, Carol ran a non-governmental organization called [worldlearning.org](http://worldlearning.org) which has a graduate school as well, and then raised money for education in Third World Countries. She is still very active, but is no longer working full time.

I am truly lucky to have been in the right place at the right time to have been hired for this job in 1977. After many, many years, I finally got up my nerve to say to Carol "working in that campaign changed my life." Her response? "I feel the same way!"

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2015

*Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*

*Issue 3 of 4*

**Evelyn J. Laporte**  
Supreme Court Justice

There is no single individual who has been most influential in my life. I was blessed to have grown up in a circle of family members that touched my life in many ways. There are four very influential individuals who are responsible for what I have become today. They are, my mother Epifania, my father Francisco and my two loving sisters, Idalia and Marta. For this essay I will discuss my mother's influence in my life.

My mother was a Christian woman with a very strong personality. She was very strict but at the same time kind and loving. To me she was the most dignified and beautiful person I have ever met. She was a vivid example of discipline and integrity who taught me to love and care for others. She was kind and generous and most important loyal to her family.

I don't remember having conversations with my mother about things a mother daughter would talk about. As a poor family I grew up without many of the things other young people were enjoying at the time. My mother always worked in domestics jobs, cleaning and cooking in houses for the upper middle class and the rich. But the way she performed her duties, it gave me the impression that to her it was the most important job on earth. She was very responsible and devoted to it. She did her job with pride and she did it well. On the other hand education was very important to my mother. As a woman who only completed an eighth grade education, she made sure she worked hard to give us a good home and education.

At times when I was off from school she would take me to work with her. And the way she interacted with everyone was so appealing

to me. She would speak to everybody on the way to work and at work. She would speak to people at church in the neighborhood, everywhere she was. It seems that the whole world knew my mother and my mother knew the whole world. During these times I did not know or was aware of the difference in classes or skin color. I just saw my mother interact with people and people interact with her in a very kind and special way.

I never heard my mother complain about anything. At least not to me or in front of me. I remember her being happy all the time, no matter what she was going through. She just displayed qualities of her character which during my teenage years I began to experience and display myself.

I did not realize the impact my mother had in my life until I came to New York City to fulfill my dream. Confronted with challenges and disappointments early on, little by little I found myself beginning to understand how to approach things and situations, how certain things were done and began to understand how things came about. And all because I remember how she dealt with situations back home. Then I understood what a role model she was.

In some ways my mother was a remarkable teacher. From her I learned so many good traits. I learned about faith, discipline and responsibility. I learned about respect and trust, about caring and sharing. And just by observing how she interacted with others, and the way she treated others, I learned how to fill in the blanks on issues she never spoke to me about as a mother daughter would. Now I realize she did not have to say much. She showed me the way. I could not fail to learn many of the good qualities my mother possessed. And for that, I am thankful to have the kind of mother I had.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*

*Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term*

*Issue 4 of 4*

*"... it is ok to want to take care of others as long as I remember to take care of myself"*

#### **Wilesca Belhomme**

Paralegal Intern

"You can be anything you want to be in this world . . . just don't be like me". Those aren't really the words of encouragement anyone expects to hear from their mother, but that was the motto she lived by. As baffled as I was by her statement it wasn't until I matured later in life that I truly understood the meaning behind her words.

Born on the beautiful island of Haiti, my mother Rigouette Belhomme struggled on a daily basis. Living in a single parent home she would sneak into her father, my grandfather's, home and steal a handful of rice to bring home so her and her mother wouldn't go hungry. She made sure her siblings were always taken cared of, despite needing to be cared for herself. To this day she is still taking care of others.

Around the 1970's my mother immigrated to America with the help of my father. America, "the land of opportunity" as many immigrants would call it, was the only place she saw herself being able to secure a future for herself and the family she had hoped to create in the years to come. She went on to become a nurse, which is not at all surprising to me since she enjoys taking care of others.

My mother would always tell my younger sisters and I that the reason she wakes up in the morning for work, despite her ongoing health issues, is to make sure that we never know the feeling of being hungry or as sad as she was growing up. Its hard to imagine that such a beautiful person, inside and out, grew up the way she did, but in the end, that is what made her the woman I look up to today.

I've been told on several occasions that I am just like my mother. I would always take that as a compliment, but then I would hear her voice in my head repeating the same thing over and over. "You can be anything you want to be in this world . . . just don't be like me". Why wouldn't I want to be like her? I mean she is such a caring, generous, selfless, nurturing and amazing human being. That is when it hit me, she is too caring, too generous, too selfless, too nurturing and too amazing to be going through what she is going through now.

She has been taking care of everyone else for so many years that she neglected to take care of herself. Now, due to health issues, she is constantly in the hospital but that doesn't stop her from doing as much as she can for others. Seeing how far she has come and what it has led to has changed me in many ways. She taught me that it is ok to want to take care of others as long as I remember to take care of myself. Now I know why she didn't want me to be like her.

She wanted me to be better.

**Grace Machuca**  
Management Analyst

I am certain that many of you have stories about women who, in some way, have touched our lives and ignited the light within us.

In reflecting upon the many women who have passed through my life, I am inherently conscience of my grandmother. A very private person and someone who would protest to be spoken about in public. Thus, I will tell you only that her name was "Abuela." She epitomized a solitary figure who had an inner strength and determination to improve her children's lives. Although she did not speak English, have a formal education, or endowed with worldly sophistication, she strongly held the belief that the United States provided a window of opportunity for her children to grow and be educated.

Her bravery and determination astounds me and ignites in me the mindset that anything is possible. This is not to say that her path was not a difficult one to travel, but it enabled the generations to come to endeavor to pursue their dreams and aspirations. She had an inherent philosophy that all professions were honorable and should be performed with dignity. She did not measure a person by his or her title, education, or achievements, but by their "Spirit of Heart". Those who, by fate, had an opportunity to cross paths with her were blessed with the best of her. She generously imparted to others a kind word, encouragement and assistance of any kind.

"Abuela" was a woman of few words, but of grand gestures and vision for Life. Perhaps as a young person, I did not realize the extent to which her quiet tenacity and inherent kindness towards others had been imprinted on my soul. However, today I realize the extent to which her magnificent canvas has left an indelible imprint on who I am.

*"... measure a person [not] by his or her title, education,  
or achievements, but by their 'Spirit of Heart' "*

### **Marc Levine**

Court Clerk

At the risk of being cliché, my mother, Sandra Levine, is "A Woman Who Has Positively Impacted My Life." From a very early age, I understood that my mom was a dynamic woman possessing great intelligence and creativity. By the time I was four, I was a radical feminist, though I did not know the term. I remember urging the other boys to let the girls play sports with them. When they complained that the girls didn't know how to play, my response was that this was because the boys had never given them a chance to play. Clearly, my mother inspired me.

My mother was convinced that children are capable of learning far more than people generally believed and, therefore, taught me to read when I was two years old. She bought me a wonderful book called the "Do-it Book," which had countless creative projects and explanations on how to do them. She taught me to be creative and to find joy in learning. For a Boy Scout diamond jubilee my mom stayed up all night to create costumes, hand-puppets as well as a number of songs and skits. We memorized them on the way to the fair and put on a two-person show.

My mother could put together an event like nobody else. My sister and I frequently tagged along to political and social events which my mom was running. I found a letter from Bobby Kennedy's chief of staff on their stationery recounting my mother's friendship with the Senator. After the Senator was killed, my mom ran a huge welcome to New York event for Vice-President Humphrey. My sister went up to hand the Vice-President flowers and say "welcome to New York." I still remember him kissing her.

People love talking to my mom. She gets into conversations with strangers on a bus and makes friends for life. People adore her because she is welcoming and well-intentioned. Even more, she is fun. I remember Isaac Asimov flirting with her mercilessly at a MENSA convention.

My mother has accomplished a lot, from breaking an exclusive news scandal to being an Associate Producer on an Oscar nominated documentary. She encouraged and assisted our Assembly-member in the abolition of New York's death penalty. In short, my mother has had a wonderful life and has done so much. She has shaped the lives of my sisters, cousins, friends and myself. She taught us that we could accomplish really great things. But, ironically, she seems unaware of all that she has done.

If I had to say what my mom's motto in life is, I would say "I can do it!" Nothing can stop her when she decides to do something. It's that infectious optimism that makes her so well-loved. That, and her willingness to accept people for who they are. She is a remarkable woman!

We take this opportunity to thank each of the fourteen contributors to our court's Women's History Month newsletters. Their celebration, and personal stories, of amazing and inspirational women has touched us all.

-The Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee

*Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Robin Sheares, Chair**

## **Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee**

Chair: *Hon. Robin Sheares*

Members: *Judges: Theresa Ciccotto, Gary Marton and Leslie Stroth*

*Court Attorney: Elaine Schack-Rodriguez*

*Clerks: Tanya Faye, Nicole Jones and Laurana Springer*

*Officers: Carol Jones, Sidney Moses and Jill Vega*

Counties Served: *Kings*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *New Committee Chair for 2016. Previous data is unavailable.*

Do you use Videoconferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer? *No, all members do not have access to computers*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016? *Morale boosters*

*Special Events & Educational Programs*

- *Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Essay Contest, and More: a celebration honoring women in public service including former supervising judges for Civil Kings and Kings Landlord/Tenant and their staff and one male employee who was unanimously chosen. Date: TBA*
- *For Domestic Awareness Month, we are seeking a speaker. Would also like to do something for Breast Cancer.*

Meetings: *February 19, 2016 and March 4, 2016, other dates TBD.*

### **Concerns**

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016?  
*Taking care of oneself.*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Currently in discussion.*

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00 in the courthouse? *Computer training; Word and Excel, Basic foreign language*

Would online viewing or videoconferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes, for those who have computer access.*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real-time on your desktop computer? *Some*

### **Collaboration**

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

*Brooklyn Women's Bar Association. Will connect with others during the year, e. g., Brooklyn Bar Association and Metropolitan Black Bar Association.*

*New York County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Tanya Kennedy, (2015) Chair**

**Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, (2016) Co-Chair**

**Yacine Barry-Wun, Co-Chair**

**Nyiela Barret, Co-Chair**

## **New York County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee**

Name and Title of Chair(s):

2015: Hon. Tanya Kennedy

2016: Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, Yacine Barry-Wun and Nyiela Barret

Members – Nyiela Barret, Yacine Barry-Wun, Michael Boyle, Lt. Diane Cuminale, Lt. William Evans, Hon. Cheryl Gonzales, Hon. David Kaplan, Julie Kennedy, Hon. Tanya Kennedy, Hon. Lynn R. Kotler, Robin Linder, James Lopez, Emily Morales-Minerva, Phyllis Munford, Angela M. Redman, Edwin Rosa, Hon. Jennifer Schechter, Malaika-Scott McLaughlin, Serena Springle, John Smith, Eric Wursthorn

Counties Served: New York County

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: Personal Finance Bootcamp—June 4, 12 & 19, 2015

Average Attendance: 30+

Would it be useful for members to meet via videoconference/Skype from their desktop computer?

Yes, for planning meetings only

### **Special Event Marketing**

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

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016?

*Programs on the following:*

*The effect and future of Women in the Courts*

*The effect and future of the LGBT community in the Courts*

*What every person should know about Breast Cancer (Bright Pink)*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Yes, Child care centers*

*Queens County Criminal Court Matters Gender Fairness Committee  
The Judicial Committee on the Women in the Courts of the  
Supreme Court Civil Term and Criminal Term*

**Hon. Marguerite A. Grays, Chair**

**Hon. Marcia Hirsch, Chair**

**Queens Criminal Court Matters Gender Fairness Committee**  
**The Judicial Committee on the Women in the Courts of the Supreme Court**  
**Civil Term and Criminal Term**

Chairs: *Hon. Marguerite Grays, Civil Term and Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch, Criminal Term*  
Counties Served: *Queens*

**2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *March 30, 2015, July 1, 2015 and October 30, 2015*

Average Attendance: *40*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *Yes*

Please share any areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *The Criminal and Civil Terms of the Supreme Court and the Criminal Court of Queens County have combined their resources this year. As a result, we have been able to co-host three very successful programs throughout the year with an average attendance of approximately 40 people per event.*

**2015 Special Events**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month: *On October 30, 2015, Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Executive Director of Sanctuary for Families was our guest speaker for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Sanctuary for Families is New York's leading service provider and advocate for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking and related forms of gender violence.*

Women's History Month: *On March 30, 2015, the joint committee's hosted a screening of a documentary film entitled "Geraldine Ferraro -- Paving the Way". Opening remarks were made at the program by the Queens Borough President, Hon. Melinda Katz. A reception followed the program.*

Other Special Events or Activities: *On July 1, 2015, the joint committee's hosted our second annual program entitled "Women and Money Update --Taking Charge of Your Financial Future". Madison Planning sponsored the lunch time program. A lively question and answer session followed the presentation*

## Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

*Email and Flyer*

Who and how many attended? *30 - 50*

*Judicial and non-judicial employees attended, including secretaries, court officers and clerks, as well as members of the Queens District Attorney's Office, and the Queens County Women's Bar Association. Attendance ranged between 30 and 50 people.*

Was there any press before or after? *No*

## Future Plans

What are your plans for 2016? *Women's History Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month programs.*

## Concerns

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016? *Lack of promotional opportunities available for women in the courts, and opportunities in general. The secretaries are concerned about their future in the court system. Women and Money is still a topic worth exploring, with many of our younger members concerned about the high cost of college and our older members concerned about caring for elderly family members and having enough savings to retire.*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Women participants in our various treatment courts struggle to find child care, good jobs and adequate housing. Women with mental illness face additional barriers due to the stigma of having this disease.*

Do you see unmet training needs? *Continued computer training is needed particularly in light of the Court's updated computer systems and programs.*

## Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Managing stress in the workplace; effective communication skills and continued financial workshops.*

Would online viewing or video conferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real time on your desktop computer? Yes

### **Collaboration**

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

*Bar Associations including the Queens County Women's Bar Association and the Madison Planning Group, Inc.*

# Queens County Women's Bar Association

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

and

**The Gender Fairness Committees for Queens County Supreme Court, Civil  
and Criminal Terms and the Queens County Criminal Court**

IN CELEBRATION OF

*Women's*  
History Month

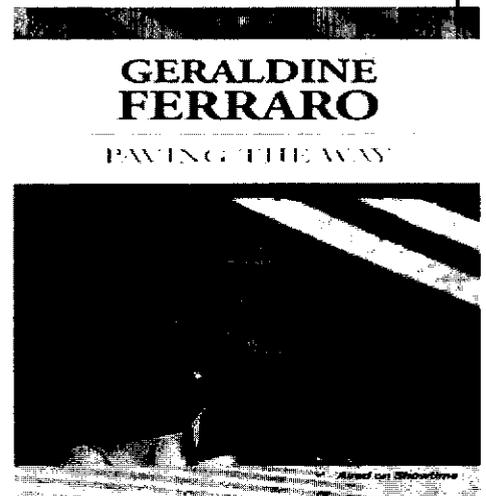
**INVITE YOU TO A DOCUMENTARY SCREENING OF  
*GERALDINE FERRARO – PAVING THE WAY***

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>,**

**2015 5:30 p.m. to 8:00**

**p.m.**

**Queens Borough Hall  
120-55 Queens Blvd  
Kew Gardens, NY  
11424**



Special Remarks by

Queens Borough President **MELINDA KATZ**

*The Queens County Gender Fairness Committee  
for the Civil Term - Queens Supreme Court*

***WOMEN AND MONEY UPDATE  
“TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE”***

*Discussion led by Gary Schwartz of the Madison Planning Group, Inc.*  
**Learn about long-term care insurance, when to take social security benefits, how to save for your retirement, and more.....**

**DATE: Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**TIME: 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.**



**Madison Planning Group**

4 New King Street, Suite 120  
White Plains, NY 10604

YOU CAN'T PREDICT THE FUTURE..

BUT YOU CAN PREPARE NOW FOR WHATEVER IT BRINGS.

**LOCATION: 5<sup>TH</sup> Floor Boardroom**

**Jamaica Courthouse**

**88-11 Sutphin Blvd.**

**Jamaica , NY 11415**

**RSVP: By June 26, 2015**

RSVP to Hon. Marguerite A. Grays c/o Joann Lopresto  
at (718) 298-1212 or [jloprest@nycourts.gov](mailto:jloprest@nycourts.gov)

***Light Lunch Served - Space is Limited***



***October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month***

The Queens County Gender Fairness Committee  
of the Supreme and Criminal Court  
and  
The Queens County Women's Bar Association  
Present

***Hon. Judy Harris Kluger  
Executive Director  
of***

***Sanctuary for Families***

*Sanctuary for Families is New York's leading service provider and  
advocate for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking, and related  
forms of gender violence.*

***Friday, October 30, 2015  
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.***

**Queens County Jamaica Courthouse  
88-11 Sutphin Boulevard  
Jamaica, New York  
Fifth Floor Boardroom**

***All Are Welcome!***

RSVP to [Jloprest@nycourts.gov](mailto:Jloprest@nycourts.gov) or 718-298-1212  
**on or before October 28, 2015**  
Light Refreshments will be Served



and  
Council Member **KAREN KOSLOWITZ** for 29<sup>th</sup> District of Queens

**FREE ADMISSION – LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

**RSVP BY MARCH 27, 2015 -- CLICK HERE TO [RSVP](#)  
FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT [INFO@QCWBA.ORG](mailto:INFO@QCWBA.ORG)  
or Hon. Marguerite Grays at 718-298-1212**

*Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee*

**Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto, Chair**

**Hon. Karen A. Wolff, Chair**

## **Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee**

Chairs: *Hon. Barbara Irolla Panepinto and Hon. Karen Wolff*

Members: *Claire Cody Miller, Esq., Susan Quirk, Esq. (Special Referee, Richmond County Supreme Court, Rian Silverman (Court Attorney to Hon. Karen Wolff), Karen Soren, Esq., Alison Hamanjian, (Court Attorney Referee Richmond County Family Court)*

Counties Served: *Richmond*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *4/16/15, 10/20/15, 2/17/16*

Average Attendance: *5*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *No*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *Conference on violence in Relationships at New Dorp H.S., Breast Cancer Awareness program*

### **2015 Special Events**

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month: *"Stop the Violence/Break the Violence: Violence in Relationships" at New Dorp H.S.: The acclaimed, brilliant and talented theatrical group Girl Be Heard presented a theater piece about sexual assault and relationships, and a panel discussion was held with a speaker from the Richmond County D.A.'s Special Victim's Unit and the Director of Diversity Compliance at the College of Staten Island.*

Other Special Events or Activities: *Co-Sponsored breast health awareness program at the Richmond County Supreme Court for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The speaker was Catherine Putkowski O'Brien, LCSW, a breast cancer survivor and Director of Health Education for the SIBCRI (Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative) located at the College of Staten Island.*

### **Special Event Marketing**

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

*Email, Mail, and Flyer*

Who and how many attended? Approximately 60 teens attended the high school program and approximately 75 attorneys and court staff attended the Breast Cancer Awareness program  
Was there any press before or after? *No*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016?

*We are planning to partner with a new high school as well as the Richmond County D.A. and other speakers for a program involving social media and communication. We are also planning a program for breast cancer awareness month.*

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2016? *April-date TBD*

### **Concerns**

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2016?

*Appointed counsel in matrimonial cases*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Child Care Centers and Supervised Visitation*

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Stress management and health and wellness.*

Would online viewing or video conferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

### **Collaboration**

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

*SI Women's Bar Association, College of Staten Island, Girl Be Heard theatrical group, Richmond County D.A.'s Office, New Dorp H.S.*

# GENDER FAIRNESS PROGRAM

*VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS*

*STOP THE VIOLENCE/BREAK THE SILENCE*

With a Special Theatrical Performance by

**G!RL**  
**BE HEARD**  
STAGING THE REVOLUTION



**Presented by:**

Staten Island Women's Bar Association  
Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee  
in association with  
New Dorp High School Law & Justice Program

For more information: 646-468-5906

**When: April 16, 2015**  
**6PM to 8PM**

**Where: New Dorp High School**  
465 New Dorp Lane  
Staten Island, NY 10306

Program is **FREE** to Attend  
Pizza will be served!

- "G!RL BE HEARD"- original theatrical performance- strengthening girls' voices
- Tuesday Muller-Mondi, Special Victims Unit Deputy Bureau Chief -Richmond County District Attorney's Office
- Danielle Dimitrov, Director of Diversity Compliance at the College of Staten Island- providing information about campus resources for victims of sexual assault

# ***JUDGES & LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT***

*And The*



*And The*

**NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts/Gender  
Fairness Committee**

*And The*

**Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee**

*cordially invite you to their*

## ***ANNUAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH BREAKFAST***

***Tuesday, October 20, 2015***

***9:15 A.M.***

***Supreme Court House  
26 Central Avenue***

***\*\*Refreshments will be served\*\*  
Come Join Us and Show Your Support!!!***



*Gender Fairness Committee  
Bronx County Family Court*

**Hon. Carol Sherman, Chair**

## **Bronx Family Court Gender Fairness Committee**

Chair: *Hon. Carol Sherman*

Members: *Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney; Denise Dizzene, CWCIP Liaison; Rhonda Young, Case Coordinator; Mara Felder, Bronx Defenders; Deborah Gould, Children's Law Center; Kim Kavern, Safe Horizons; Lauren Lerner, Court Attorney Referee; Sue Levy, Court Attorney Referee; Jacqueline Saed, ACS Legal Services; Christina Paska, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Mike Williams, Clerk of Court; Lauren Teichner, Bronx Defenders; Rebecca Visgaitis, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Rhonda Albright, Children's Law Center; Deborah Gould, Children's Law Center; Barbara Stock, JRP, Legal Aid Society; Dr. David Junowitz, Bronx Family Court Mental Health Services; Anita Parker, St Luke AME Church; Lindsay Copeland, Court Attorney*  
Counties Served: *Bronx*

### **2015 Meetings**

Dates of Meetings: *March 18, June 10, September 11, November 30*

Average Attendance: *14*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No, we use teleconferencing.*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *No*

Areas of success during 2015 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *In addition to our educational programs, breast cancer screening, and Dress for Success program, the supervised visitation program at St Luke AME Church continues to go very well and expanding the space to accommodate more families in the Bronx and has also expanded to accept cases from Manhattan Family Court. Efforts are underway to expand to other churches in the City. The Committee is also gathering information on the use of technology to increase visitation options for children of incarcerated parents.*

### **2015 Special Events**

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

*We sponsored a three-part CLE program focusing on effective representation of a victim of domestic violence and the prosecution of a family offense case from filing, motion practice and trial to disposition. The presentation included a moot court. The program was very well received.*

Other Special Events or Activities:

- *The committee sponsored a CLE program in June dealing with Challenges Faced by Young Parents.*
- *We sponsored the SCAN Mobile for Breast Cancer Awareness and conducted a very successful clothing drive for Dress for Success.*

### **Special Event Marketing**

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

*Email and Flyer*

Who and how many attended?

*About 80 - 100 people attended the CLE programs during DV Awareness Month*

Was there any press before or after? *No*

### **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2016?

- *We are planning 2 programs related to the issues of young/teen mothers and young/teen fathers and teen mothers and fathers who are themselves in foster care with or without their babies.*
- *A Part 2 CLE program on young parents who were previously in foster care.*
- *A CLE program on commercially sexually exploited transgendered youth.*
- *A presentation on tele-visits between children and their incarcerated parent.*
- *A CLE program on Orders of Protection with an in-depth look at applicable Penal Law sections.*

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2016? *January 27, 2016, other dates TBD*

### **Concerns**

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women?

*Supervised visitation and breastfeeding space. We do not have breastfeeding space, and we need more changing tables. We also need more supervised visitation programs.*

### **Educational Programs and Projects**

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Young teen mothers and fathers as mentioned above.*

Would online viewing or video conferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *No*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real time on your desktop computer? *No*

### **Collaboration**

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

*Please see the attached minutes of our meetings and flyers for our programs.*

**MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2015 • 1 PM— 2 PM**



## **SUPPORTING YOUNG PARENTS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Bronx Family Court 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Library  
900 Sheridan Avenue, Bronx, NY**

**OPENING REMARKS:** Hon. Carol Sherman

- PRESENTERS:**
- **Sabine Chery**, LMSW, ACS - Family Permanency Services
  - **Elisa Dunn**, MSN, FNP, NYC DOHMH Nurse-Family Partnership
  - **Christine Deans Reynolds**, LCSW, The Center for the Developing Child and Family, Ackerman Institute for the Family
  - **Ashleigh Washington**, MSW, New York City Department of Education, LYFE Program

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. GO TO:** <http://7.selectsurvey.net/nyscourts/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=74KH3lm3>

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Denise Dizzine, Liaison, NYS Child Welfare Court Improvement Project (718) 618-2175 or [ddizzine@nycourts.gov](mailto:ddizzine@nycourts.gov)

- CO-SPONSORED BY:**
- **APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT**
  - **BRONX COUNTY FAMILY COURT**
  - **GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**



**NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM  
CHILD WELFARE COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

This program has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 1 CREDIT HOUR which can be applied toward the Area of Professional Practice Requirement. This complimentary training is appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys. The Appellate Division, First Department, is an accredited Continuing Legal Education Provider.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH TRAINING SERIES

*We will follow a domestic violence victim through the family court process. The format of this presentation is a narrated role play.*

### Upcoming dates:

The Anatomy of a Domestic Violence Case (Part 2 of 3)  
October 8, 2015 ~ 1-2 pm

The Anatomy of a Domestic Violence Case (Part 3 of 3)  
November 2, 2015 ~ 1-2 pm

**OCTOBER 1, 2015 ~ 1 to 2 pm**

### **THE ANATOMY OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE (PART 1 OF 3)**

#### **NARRATOR:**

KIMBERLINA KAVERN, Safe Horizon

#### **FEATURING:**

BRIAN HILBERT, Bronx Family Court  
ANGELA YEBOAH, Sanctuary for Families  
LEAH SCODOTTO, Safe Horizon  
MICHAEL GREIFINGER, 18B Assigned Counsel

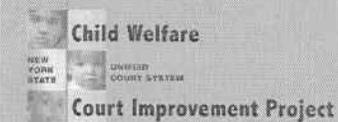
*This program has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 1 CREDIT HOUR which can be applied toward the Area of Professional Practice Requirement. This complimentary training is appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys. The Appellate Division, First Department, is an accredited Continuing Legal Education Provider.*

#### **To register, go to:**

<http://7.selectsurvey.net/nyscourts/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=18KH7885>

#### **CO-SPONSORED BY:**

Appellate Division, First Dept.  
Bronx Family Court  
Gender Fairness Committee



All trainings to be held at:  
**Bronx Family Court**  
900 Sheridan Ave.  
Bronx, NY  
  
9th Floor Library

**For more information, contact:** Kimberlina Kavern, 718-509-3632 or [kkavern@safehorizon.org](mailto:kkavern@safehorizon.org)

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*We will follow a domestic violence victim through the family court process. The format of this presentation is a narrated role play.*

Upcoming date:

The Anatomy of a Domestic Violence Case (Part 3 of 3)  
November 2, 2015 ~ 1-2 pm

All trainings to be held at:  
**Bronx Family Court**  
900 Sheridan Ave.  
Bronx, NY  
  
9th Floor Library

**OCTOBER 8, 2015 ~ 1 to 2 pm**

### **THE ANATOMY OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE (PART 2 OF 3)**

**NARRATOR:**

KIMBERLINA KAVERN, Safe Horizon

**FEATURING:**

TERRY LAWSON, Legal Services NYC - Bronx  
ANGELA YEBOAH, Sanctuary for Families  
DARYL SHEPPARD, ACS

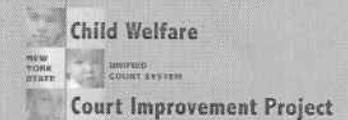
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**To register, go to:**

<http://7.selectsurvey.net/nyscourts/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n2KH7m65>

**CO-SPONSORED BY:**

Appellate Division, First Dept.  
Bronx Family Court  
Gender Fairness Committee



**For more information, contact:** Kimberlina Kavern, 718-509-3632 or [kkavern@safehorizon.org](mailto:kkavern@safehorizon.org)

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH TRAINING SERIES

*We will follow a domestic violence victim through the family court process. The format of this presentation is a narrated role play.*

*All trainings to be held at:*  
**Bronx Family Court**  
900 Sheridan Ave.  
Bronx, NY  
9th Floor Library

### NOVEMBER 2, 2015 ~ 1 to 2 pm THE ANATOMY OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE (PART 2 OF 3)

**NARRATOR:**

KIMBERLINA KAVERN, Safe Horizon

**FEATURING:**

HON. LLINET ROSADO, Family Court Judge  
TERRY LAWSON, Legal Services NYC – Bronx  
JUAN LUCIANO, 18B Assigned Counsel  
KIM SUSSER, NYLAG  
ANGELA YEBOAH, Sanctuary for Families

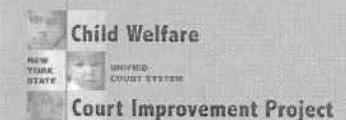
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**To register, go to:**

<http://7.selectsurvey.net/nyscourts/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=82KH868K>

**CO-SPONSORED BY:**

Appellate Division, First Dept.  
Bronx Family Court  
Gender Fairness Committee



**For more information, contact:** Kimberlina Kavern, 718-509-3632 or [kkavern@safehorizon.org](mailto:kkavern@safehorizon.org)



## DRESS FOR SUCCESS



The Bronx Family Court Gender Fairness Committee is holding a "Dress for Success" event to run March 23 - April 22, 2015, for the Bronx Branch Office located at 839 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, New York 10455.

"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, especially plus/large sizes, including collared shirts and blouses.

Donation box will be placed in the following designated area:

9<sup>th</sup> Floor - Case Coordinators Office

For further information contact:

Rhonda T. Young, Staff Liaison  
(718) 618-2169

Donors may leave a list of items donated and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with contact information in order to receive acknowledgment for tax purposes.

Early Breast Cancer Detection Can Save Your Life  
Have a Mammogram N O W!!

PROJECT  
RENEWAL

SCANVAN

**SCAN VAN PROGRAM  
MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY**

**JUDGES and LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT  
(JALBCA)**

Announce a

**FREE MAMMOGRAM**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015**

**8:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Look for the mammography SCAN VAN at

**Bronx Family Court**

900 Sheridan Avenue, Bronx

**APPOINTMENT IS NECESSARY**

**Please call 1-800-564-6868**

For women 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in the past year.  
No cost to you. However, if you have insurance please bring the information with you.

Generously Funded By

**Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA)**

Call  
1-800  
564-6868

Call  
1-800  
564-6868