

ANNUAL REPORTS

Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

2007-2008

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**Local Gender Bias and
Gender Fairness Committees**

2007-2008



Annual Reports of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

2007-2008

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee Report

Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts Report

Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts Report

Sixth Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee Report

Seventh Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee Report

Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee Report

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

Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts Report

Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee Report

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

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

**Gender Bias Committee, New York County, Supreme Court,
Civil Term Report**

Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District Report

Queens County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee Report

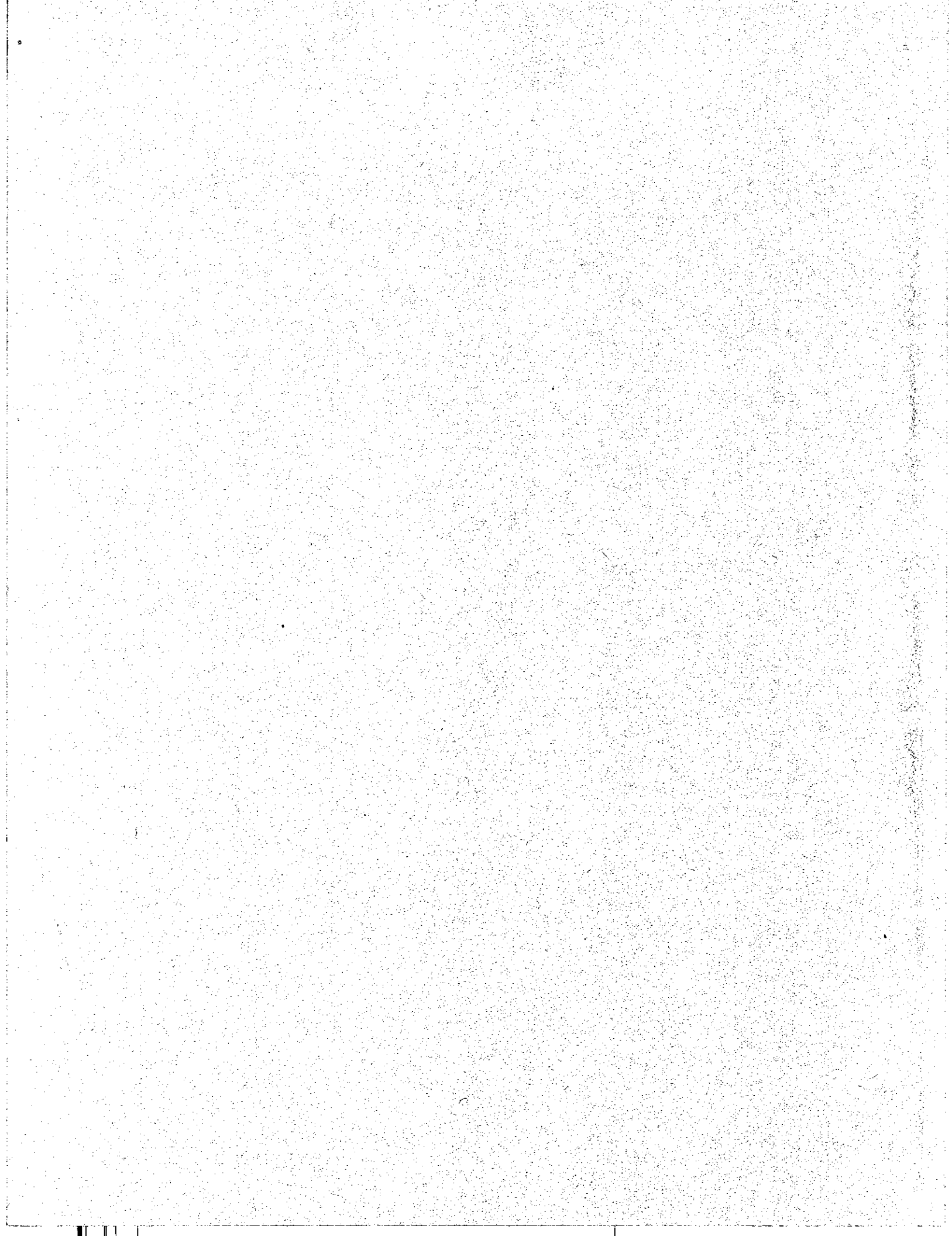
Brooklyn Gender Fairness Committee Report



Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Linda C. Griffin

Rensselaer Family Court
1504 Fifth Avenue
Troy, NY 12180
518-270-3761



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

Name of the Committee Third District Gender Fairness Committee

Name and Title of Chair

Hon. Linda C. Griffin, Renss. Cty. Family Court & Acting Judge of Supreme Court

No. Members 33 No. of Meetings 3 Average Attendance 10-12 Use of Video Conferencing? No

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

Judges & Support Magistrates - 9; Court Personnel-13; Attorneys-10; Advocates-1

(For reports on activities, please include co-sponsors, size of the attendance, and copies of any press.)

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007 Material was gathered from service providers and disseminated to courthouses; posters listing resources for victims posted in a number of courthouse waiting areas.

Activities for Women's History Month 2008 _____

Other Activities in the Past Year "Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence" workshop presented by Kathryn Ford, LMSW from the Center for Court Innovators, in collaboration with our committee The Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project and the Rensselaer County Bar Association. Collaboration with the Legal Aid Society in the organization of Pro Bono divorce clinics, and distribution of flyers in court facilities.

What are your plans for next year? We have two speakers scheduled to date; First, Ms. Alison Coleman will describe the services available to attorney's, litigants and others from Prison Families of New York, Inc.; Second, David Soares, Albany County District Attorney will be speaking on alternative sentencing programs.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do think are important this year?

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court? Lack of resources for related programs and service providers, i.e., supervised visitation program, CASA.

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

Please return this form by **March 17, 2007**, to:

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

The Gender Fairness Committee of the Third Judicial District
The Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project, Inc. &
The Rensselaer County Bar Association

Present:

**Critical Issues in Responding to Domestic Violence:
Best Practices for Attorneys & Service Providers**

Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence

Friday, March 30th, 2007

11:30am – 3:00pm

A Training Workshop presented by The Center for Court Innovation

LOCATION: Holiday Inn Express, 8 Empire Drive, Rensselaer, NY
(Off Exit 9 of I-90, Route 4)

Presentation by Kathryn Ford, LMSW
Senior Domestic Violence Associate

REGISTRATION & FEES

_____ \$30: Attorneys (Three CLE credits and lunch provided)
_____ \$12: Non-attorneys (Lunch provided)
_____ Vegetarian Lunch Requested .

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Mail Registration & Check to: The Legal Project, 6 Executive Park Dr., Albany, NY 12203

By March 23, 2007

Please make checks payable to The Legal Project

Please note: Space is limited to the first 70 registrations received. For more information, please call The Legal Project at 435-1770.

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



Need a Divorce? Learn to Represent Yourself!

The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
and
The Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Announce

A Pro Bono (Free) Divorce Clinic

for Low-Income

Rensselaer County Residents to be held at the Rensselaer County
Courthouse (corner of Congress
and 2nd Streets in Troy) on

November 16, 2007 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and

January 4, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

You must attend **BOTH** sessions.

For Qualifying Details and Registration,
Call: 462-6765 or 1-800-462-2922

Pre-Registration is Required

PRISON FAMILIES OF NEW YORK, INC.

40 NORTH MAIN AVENUE

ALBANY, NY 12203

518-453-6659

Alison.coleman@rcda.org

www.prisonfamiliesofnewyork.org

STATEWIDE**CONFIDENTIAL**NOT-FOR-PROFIT
INFORMATION ABOUT JAIL, PRISON AND PAROLE
for prison families, formerly incarcerated people,
educators, ministries, agencies,
local, regional and state government

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND/NEIGHBOR/
CO-WORKER/CLIENT/CHURCH MEMBER WHO HAS A
LOVED ONE IN PRISON?**

LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP

SUPPORT--BY TELEPHONE, MAIL, WEBSITES, GROUPS
Pre-prison planning
Post-prison adjustment

LEARN HOW TO HELP SOMEONE YOU LOVE WHO IS IN PRISON
AND HOW TO SURVIVE THE PRISON EXPERIENCE

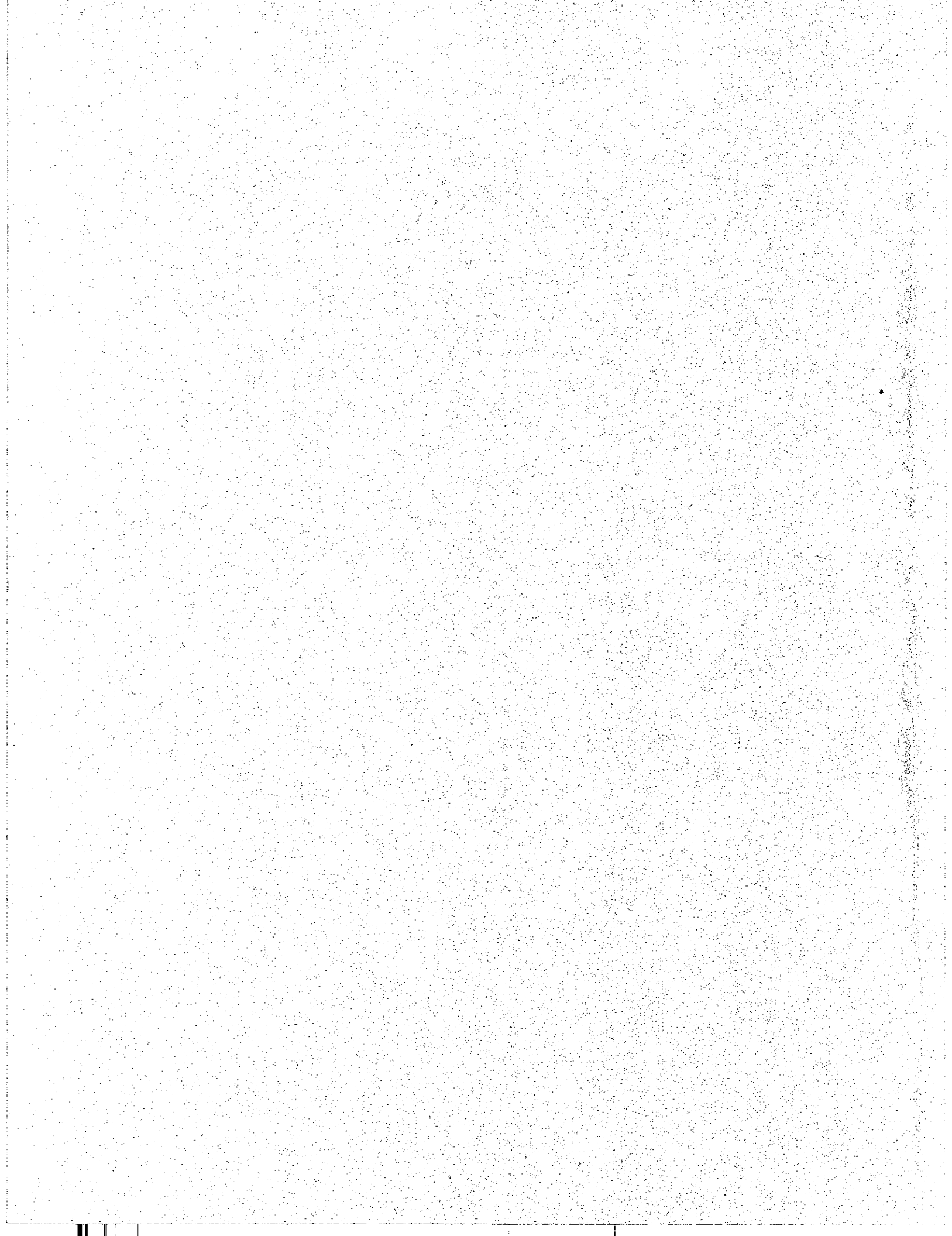
WORKING WITH AND SUPPORTING PRISONERS' CHILDREN
WHAT TO SAY, WHAT TO DO

FIND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCES ACROSS NYS
TRAININGS/ WORKSHOPS/ SPEECHES
COALITION BUILDING
SUPPORT GROUP FORMATION
STATEWIDE E-MAIL NETWORK

Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Polly A. Hoyer

**Fulton County Office Building, Room 216
223 West Main Street
Johnstown, NY 12095
518-736-5691**



WOMEN IN THE COURT'S COMMITTEE REPORT 2007-2008

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

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

No. Members: 21 **No. Of Meetings:** 0 **Average Attendance:** N/A

Use of Video Conferencing? No.

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.) 14 Judges, 1 Court Attorney, 6 Attorneys at large.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007

Clinton County: "Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day" memorial planting ceremony, October 10, 2007; planting of flowers to remember victims and survivors of intimate-partner abuse (see attached flyer & news article).

Essex County: Day of Remembrance, October 9, 2007; "Tomorrow Begins Today" training, October 11-12, 2007 (see flyer).

Franklin County: "Take Back the Night", October 23, 2007.

Fulton County: Stalking, Orders of Protection Training for Magistrates, October 4, 2007 (see attached flyer); DV Fall Festival, October 6, 2007 (see attached news coverage); First Annual Task Force Awards Luncheon (see attached flyer and news coverage).

Montgomery County: DV Awareness Month Proclamation Ceremony, October 1, 2007; "In Her Shoes" interactive educational program for High School students, October 25, 2007; DV Collaboration Awards Breakfast, October 31, 2007 (see attached flyer).

St. Lawrence County: "Stop the Violence" 8K Walk/Run, October 28, 2007 (see attached flyer).

Activities for Women's History Month 2008

Fulton & Montgomery Counties: Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium, March 15, 2008 (see attached information concerning program contents and news articles).

Fulton County: International Women's Day, gathering and sharing session, March 7, 2008 (see attached flyer).

Other Activities in the Past Year

Franklin County: DV Training for Magistrates, April 30, 2007 (see attached flyer).

Fulton County: Teen Dating Violence, presentation at Johnstown High School, April 20, 2007. "Working With Victims of Domestic Violence", training for law enforcement, December 4-5, 2007, December 18-19, 2007.

Montgomery County: "In Her Shoes", interactive educational program, offered April 19, 2007 at Fulton-Montgomery Community College.

St. Lawrence County: "The Yellow Dress" and "The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children", April 26, 2007 (see attached flyer).

What are your plans for Next Year?

We are continuing to expand IDV Court to more local courts and to accept a broader variety of cases in all counties in the district. The committee is working with DV advocacy groups in Fulton and Montgomery Counties to show an excellent video (produced by the American Bar Association) on teen dating violence at local high schools.

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

Increased sensitivity is needed toward women litigants, especially criminal defendants, who are pressed into illegal or improper conduct by their male partners due to an abusive relationship.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

No unmet training needs. See below for operational issues.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court?

There is a need for child care for women who currently have to bring their children to court with them. Many with school-age children have to be home in the afternoon to care for their children after school.

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

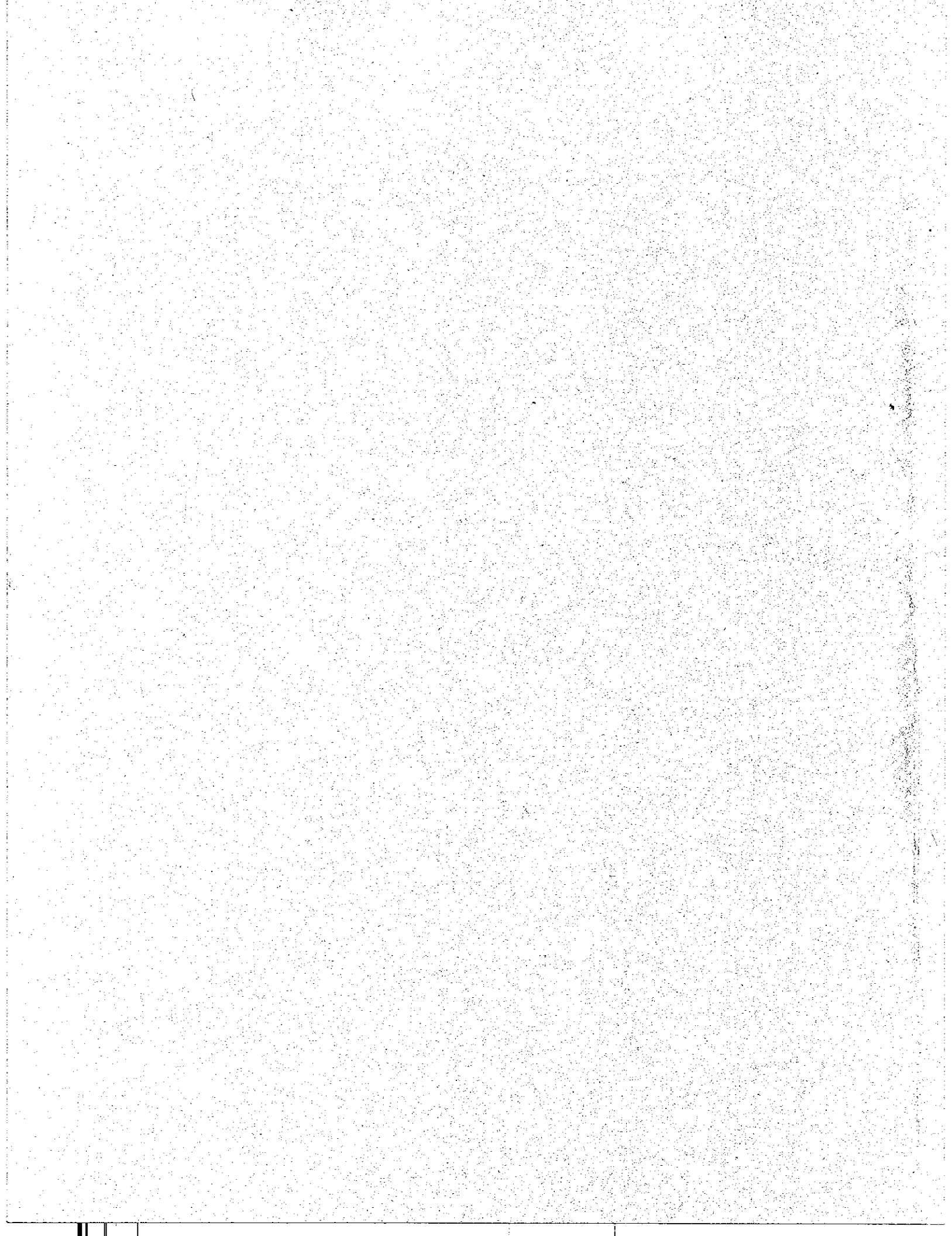
Our district's committee needs reorganization. This is a district issue for the chair to take up with the district administrative office.



Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Deborah Karalunas

Supreme Court Justice
Onondaga County Court
333 East Washington Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-428-3244



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

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

No. Members - 21 No. of Meetings - 0 Average Attendance - NA Use of Video Conferencing? - NA

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007 - None

Activities for Women's History Month 2008 - Dissemination of Articles about Women's History Month to 5th JD employees.

Other Activities in the Past Year - Completion of Investigation of Disparate Treatment Claim

What are your plans for next year? - Not yet determined.

Please return this form by **March 17, 2007**, to:

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



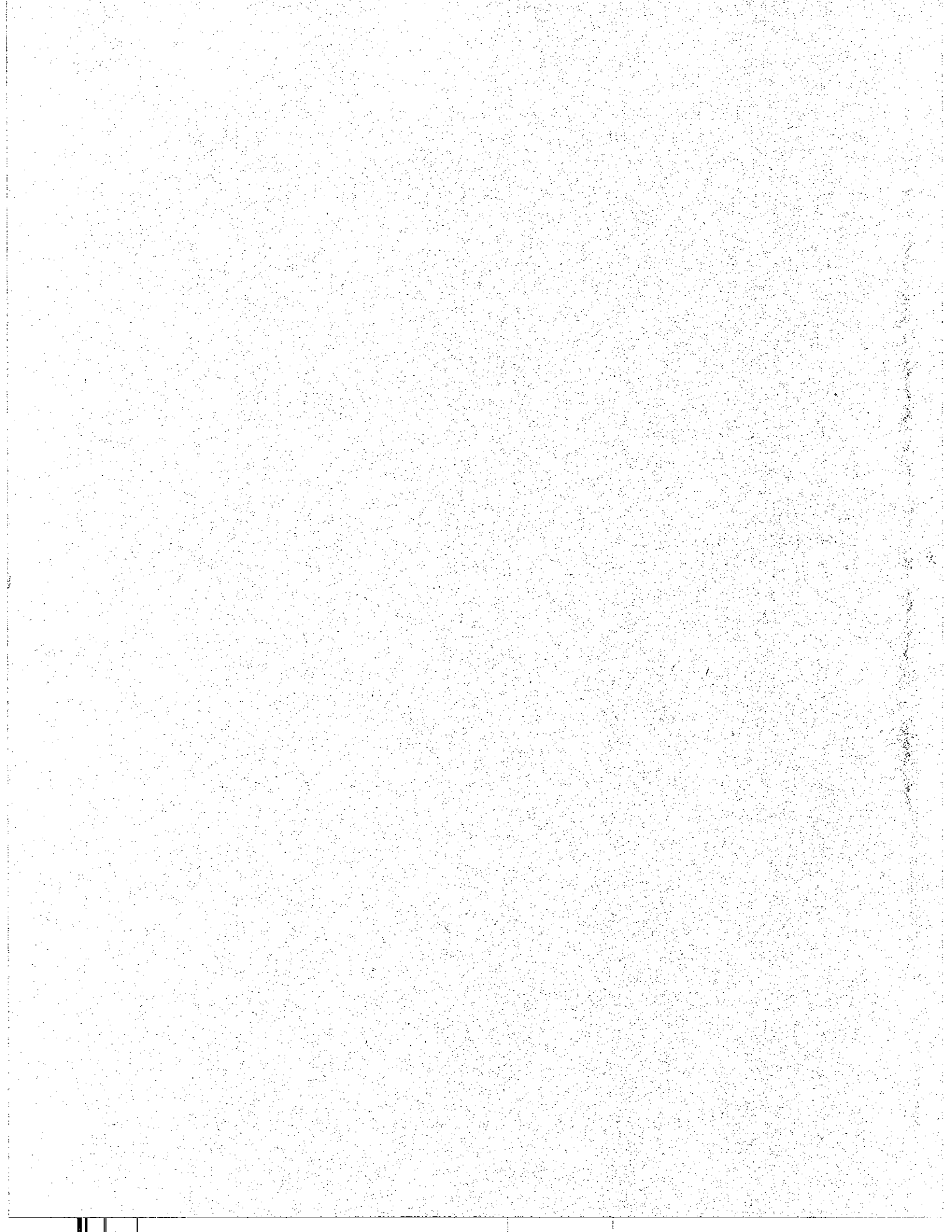
Sixth Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann

Binghamton City Court
Fifth Floor, City Hall
Binghamton, NY 13901
607-772-7006

Hon. Christopher Esworthy

Commissioner of Jurors
Broome County Courthouse
P.O. Box 1706
Binghamton, NY 13902
607-778-2159



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



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

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

March 28, 2008

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

Re: Local Committee Report 2007-2008

Dear Judge Ellerin:

I submit the following report on behalf of the Gender Fairness Committee for the Sixth Judicial District.

Chair: Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann
Binghamton City Court
Fifth Floor, City Hall
Binghamton, New York 13901
(607) 772-7006
(607) 772-7041 (fax)
e-mail: Jlehmann@courts.state.ny.us

Dep. Chair: Christopher Esworthy
Commissioner of Jurors
Broome County Courthouse
P.O. Box 1766
Binghamton, New York 13902-1766
(607) 778-2159
(607) 778-2067 (fax)
e-mail: Cesworth@courts.state.ny.us

With ten members, including our Administrative Judge Judith F. O'Shea, our committee is made up of five judges, the Commissioner of Jurors in Broome, a private attorney (the present president of the New York State Bar Association, (Kate Madigan,

Esq.), a support magistrate and two chief clerks. We also boast a very large Advisory Committee.

Our activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month are outlined in the attached.

I am proud to say that we continue to make history as the second democratic woman was elected to Supreme Court in this district's history this past November, the Honorable Molly Fitzgerald, the undersigned's cousin. We now have in our judicial ranks three Supreme Court justices, two full time Family Court judges, two full time and three part time City Court judges and three support magistrates, one Court of Claims judge and one "three hat" judge, all women. Fourteen of our forty-nine judges and magistrates are women equaling 28.5%. This represents a significant increase.

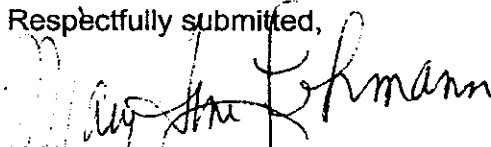
Our plans for the new year include continued expansion of the domestic violence awareness and prevention activities. The Deputy Chair and I have discussed a meeting to revitalize the committee and consider new activities.

No complaints have been registered with the committee and the committee did not have any formal meetings this year. The vastness of the geography (ten mostly rural counties) remains an impediment to co-ordinated projects, most of our activities are centered in Broome and Tompkins counties. We hope to expand into the other eight counties.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court? The answer to the question is: not enough judicial resources to handle the volume. Implementing the new statutory requirements is increasingly difficult.

We regret that we will not be able to join you for the annual meeting. The meeting is always productive and helpful and we hope to see you next year.

Respectfully submitted,



HON. MARY ANNE LEHMANN
CITY COURT JUDGE of BINGHAMTON

MAL:cq
cc: Hon. Judith F. O'Shea
Jill Goodman, Counsel

YWCA Alice Mills Award Given to Steve Cwikla



On November 20, 2007 the YWCA presented its eighth annual Alice Mills award to Steve Cwikla, Resource Coordinator for Binghamton's Domestic Violence Court. Steve was nominated for his exceptional work in the courts with outside agencies and victims of domestic violence. The award is given to individuals who are working everyday in the community to eliminate domestic violence.

We welcomed Steve to Binghamton City Court in May of 2005 as the Domestic Violence (DV) Court's first Resource Coordinator. With Steve's dedication and hard work, Binghamton's DV Court has been distinguished as a "Best Practices Court" in NYS.

A reception was given at the YWCA to honor Steve and his work with domestic violence. Attending from Binghamton City Court were Hon. Mary Anne Lehmann, Kate Maloney, Tom Hull, Cindy Quarella, Kristin McCollough and Sherry Baker, along with Steve's lovely wife Kelly.

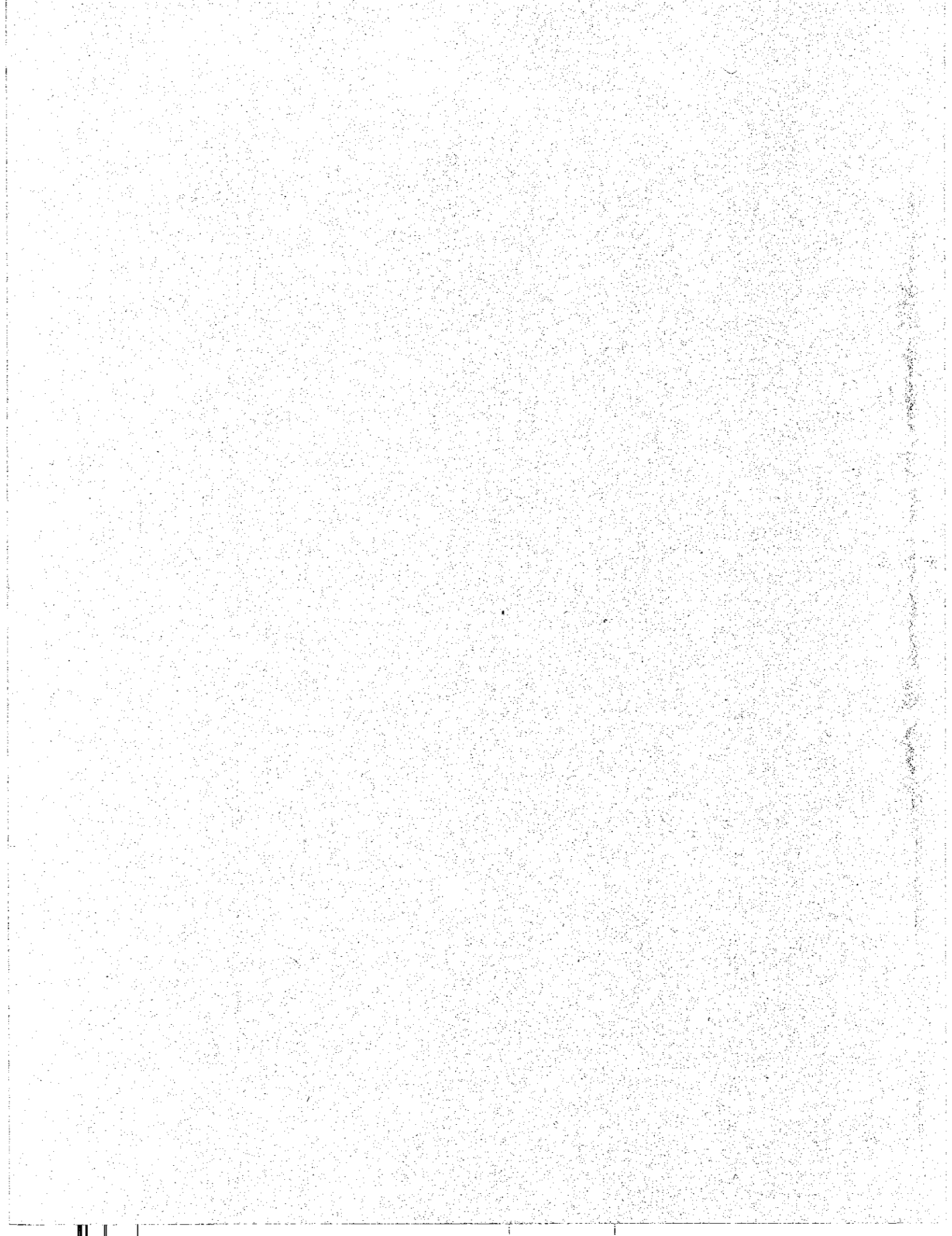
 Home



Seventh Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Teresa Johnson

Supervising Judge Rochester City Court
Hall of Justice
99 Exchange Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14614-2187
585-429-1904



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

Name of Committee Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Name and Title of Chair Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Supervising Judge, Rochester City Court

No. Members 22 No. Meetings 5 Average Attendance 9 Use of Video Conferencing? No

Composition of the Committee Judges, administrators, assistant public defenders, assistant district attorneys, court security, domestic violence advocates.

Activities for Domestic Violence Month 2007 Our committee presented a program entitled “Emotional, Verbal and Economic Abuse and Their Impact on Children” the presenter was Paula Sheinberg, the Domestic Violence Prevention Education Coordinator for our local battered women’s shelter, Alternatives for Battered Women. She spoke about the profound impact on children exposure to domestic violence can have. She also spoke about the many faces of dating violence , alerting our audience to things to look out for with their teens. The program was very well received. Attendance was approximately 50 people, mostly court staff and attorneys.

Activities for Women’s History month 2008 We did not have a program this month. We had invited Judge Kaye to be our speaker and were hopeful that she could fit it into her schedule, but she was unable to do so. She promised that she would come to Rochester as our guest soon and we would celebrate Women’s History Month when she came.

Other Activities in the Past Year We had a luncheon at Esperanza Mansion in the Finger Lakes region to encourage participation by members and supporters outside of Rochester (our judicial district covers a large geographical area). Alice M. Chapman-Minutello, Director of the

Workforce Diversity Office, was our guest speaker. She shared information about OCA's diversity initiatives and gave each attendee a packet of relevant brochures, including brochures pertaining to interview policies and procedures, interpreters, anti-discrimination panels, discrimination claim policies and procedures, and others.

What are your plans for next year? We have plans to expand the membership of our committee to garner more active representation throughout our judicial district. We also plan to invite individuals from a broader spectrum of court users, to include, among others, probation and the general public. We have established a committee to work on making sure all court users are aware of the district's commitment to gender fairness. We are also planning a series of programs involving our Teen Court and directed towards teens in the community to discuss issues relating to dating violence and domestic violence.

What Issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important this year? Unfortunately, the issues have not changed much. We continue to be concerned about the fair treatment of women within the judicial system in all of its aspects. We are heartened in the area of employment. We are learning of potential issues concerning the treatment of certain segments of the general public in their contact with court personnel, particularly court security, and are opening dialogue with the relevant parties to identify and problems and fashion solutions. We have been instrumental this past year in insuring that mandatory training in the area of sexual harassment was given to all supervisory personnel in the district and are working on setting up similar training for our judges.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a

subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

We had identified unmet training needs in that it had been several years since there had been any staff training on issues relating to sexual harassment. We coordinated with our in-house training to make sure gender fairness training was mandatory this year for all current supervisory staff.

We are working on similar training for judges in our district.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Courts?

The most pressing need in Family Court is the need for more judges. The caseload volume is increasing and the family issues have become more complex. Our Integrated Domestic Violence Court has been able to address comprehensive family issues (including criminal cases) in limited instances, but there is a need for more judges.

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

I suggested at our meeting last year that we share information between the various committees all year about up-coming programs and speakers. We didn't take any action on that recommendation and as far as I know, none of us (us included) invited others to our programs.

It would be nice to have an e-mail tree or other form of rapid communication between us available.



THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

Invites You to

**EMOTIONAL, VERBAL AND ECONOMIC
ABUSE AND THEIR IMPACT
ON CHILDREN**

(Including the Many Faces of Dating Violence)

Presented By:

PAULA SHEINBERG

Domestic Violence Prevention Education Coordinator,
Alternatives for Battered Women

Friday, October 26, 2007, 12:30-2:00 p.m. Room 303
Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd.

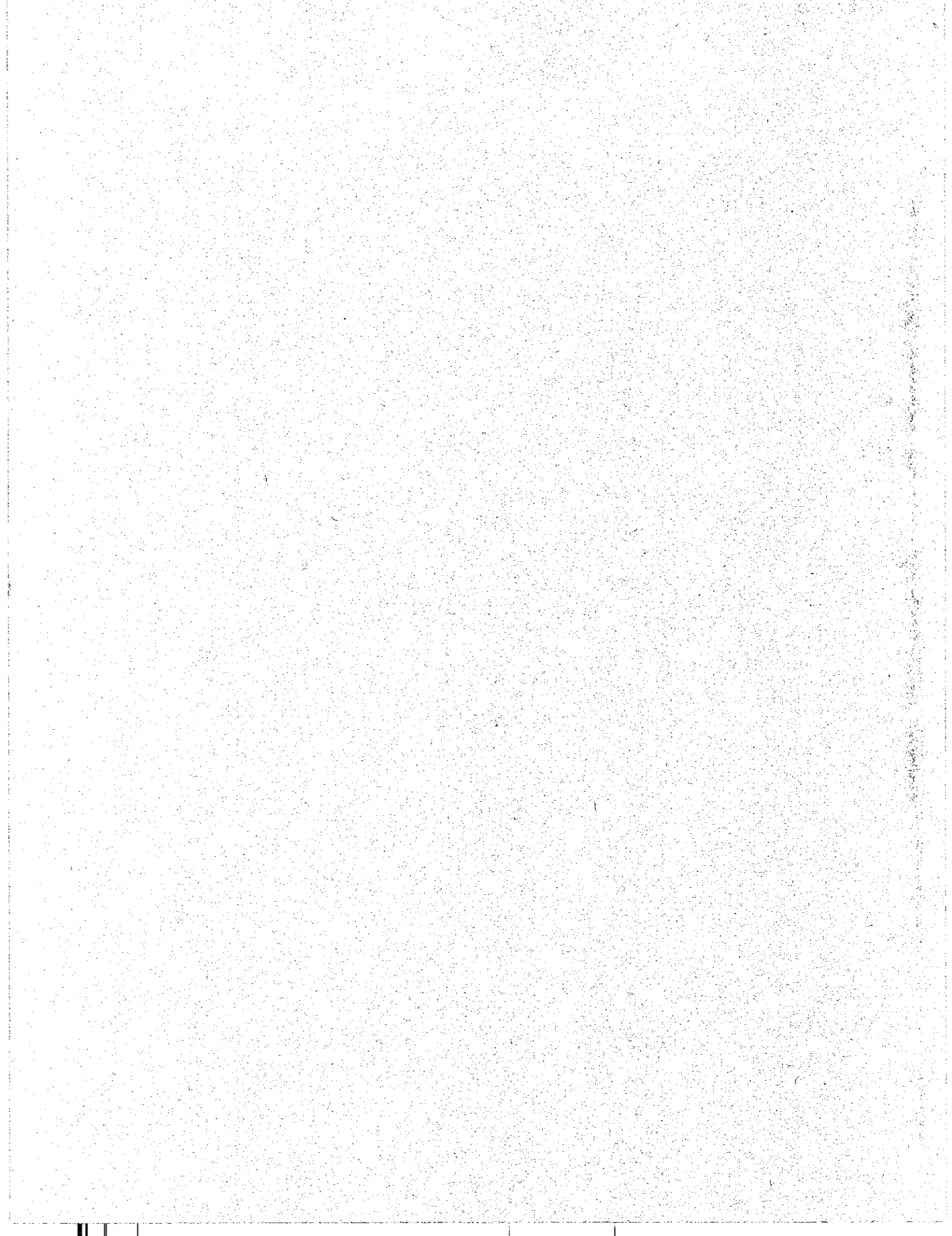
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Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee

Hon. Rosalie Bailey

Eire County Family Court
Erie County Courthouse
One Niagra Plaza
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-845-7115



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007 - 2008

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

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

No. Members: 29 **No. of Meetings:** 3 **Average attendance:** 13

Use of Video conferencing: Yes

Composition of the Committee:

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007:

Our committee co-sponsored several screenings of the Susan Still video for judges and judicial personnel throughout the district.

Susan Still is a domestic violence survivor whose case was heard in the Erie County courts. Her husband directed their son to videotape him as he berated and beat her. This chilling footage was shown and trial Judge John O'Donnell answered questions and led a discussion.

Activities for Women's History Month 2008:

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

In 2007 we added the names of nine women pioneers: Niagara County Court Judge Sara Sheldon Sperrazza, Retired Buffalo Police Captain Marian Bass, Retired Erie County Family Court Judge Mary Ann Killeen, Retired Sargent Lee Hilliker, Erie County Surrogate Barbara Howe, Lockport Clerk Colleen Kelly, Niagara County attorney Cynthia Falk, Orleans County Probation Supervisor Jeanette Riley and Hon. Cecil B. Wiener who was the first woman judge elected in Erie County in 1932 and one of the first two women who graduated from University of Buffalo Law School in 1899.

Over 150 persons from the courts and community came to honor our awardees and to celebrate the accomplishments of women in the law.

In 2008 we will add the names of our awardees to the plaque in Rochester at a smaller ceremony.

Other Activities in the Past Year:

We cooperated with the District's Black History Month program in January.

A number of our members attended the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts' 19th Annual Meeting in Brooklyn.

For Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we sponsored a program in Wyoming County. We had a speaker from the American Cancer Society and had a cake decorated with a pink ribbon to celebrate survivors.

Our members participate in the training of new employees on domestic violence, nondiscrimination and equal treatment.

The Director of Human Trafficking at the International Institute spoke to our committee and sparked a lively discussion. She distributed literature about the problem and information about available resources.

What are your plans for next year?

We are planning our May Women's History recognition ceremony in Rochester to add the names of new awardees to our plaque in the Dolores M. Denman Courthouse.

Programs currently in process are 1. Panel presentation on Human Trafficking and 2. Caring for Your Elderly Parents. We also plan to present programs for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the fall.

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

Accessibility to the courts. Outmoded court facilities pose a safety concern. Every courthouse should provide safe waiting rooms, adequate restrooms and available child care. It is important to have qualified interpreters and increased cultural sensitivity. Also to recognize the needs of single working parents of both sexes.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

Our Administrative Judge is a former committee member and our District Executive is a current committee member. They both are sensitive to needs of women in our district and to our training suggestions.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court?

There is a real need for more resources.

Most importantly, we desperately need more Family Court judges. Erie County needs two more judges, Chautauqua County needs one and Niagara County needs one.

With current bills pending before the legislature to expand Family Court's family offense jurisdiction to include dating relationships, the need for additional Family Court judges has become even more pressing.

The availability of on site drug testing is a need.

Also more trained social workers and personnel to process petitions.

We need more community resources for therapeutic supervision for non-custodial parents to cut down the waiting time.

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

1. We were very pleased that Jill Goodman traveled to meet with our Committee in 2008.
2. We always like to receive newsletters, publications and updates from the State Committee as well as information about planned programs.



8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
PRESENTATION

OCTOBER 30, 2007

PROGRAM

***WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTION TO
VIDEO PRESENTATION-
STILL IDV CASE***

HON. SHARON S. TOWNSEND
Administrative Judge, 8th District

***PERSPECTIVES ON DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE ISSUES IN VARIOUS
COURT MATTERS***

HON. JOHN O'DONNELL, J.S.C.
First Presiding Justice, Erie IDV Court.

CLOSING

SHEILA W. SCHWANEKAMP
8TH District DV and IDV Court Project
Coordinator

****Program co-sponsored by 8th Judicial District Gender and Racial
Fairness Committee***

Domestic Violence Resources for Erie County Courts

October 2007

On-site victim advocates in Erie County courts:

Haven House Advocate working with Erie Felony DV Part and also available to meet with litigants in matrimonial matters in Erie County.

Victim Advocate- Collette Schoellkopf

Telephone (716) 845-7437

Ms. Schoellkopf's office is located at 25 Delaware Avenue, 2nd Floor at the end of the hallway adjacent to Judge Pietruszka's and Judge Rosa's courtrooms. She is available Monday-Thursday.

Litigants should try to call Ms. Schoellkopf before going to her office to see if she is available to meet with them at that time.

In an emergency, Ms. Schoellkopf will try meet with the litigant immediately.

Onsite victim advocates also assigned to Erie IDV Part, Erie County Family Court and Buffalo City Court DV Part.

Other domestic violence advocacy resources available for litigants:

Family Justice Center of Erie County

Comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence

located at Main and Seneca Building, 237 Main Street, 14th Floor, Buffalo, N.Y.

telephone (716) 558-SAFE (7233)

*OCA Court Liaison to FJC- Court Attorney Nancy McCulley

telephone 845-3680

Child and Family Services' Haven House

also has shelter facilities available for families

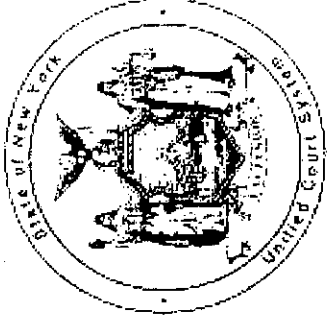
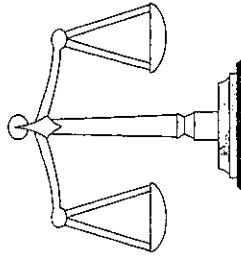
telephone (716) 884-6000

Crisis Services

telephone (716) 834-3131

YWCA of the Tonawanda's

telephone (716) 692-5580



**UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM
8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
GENDER & RACIAL FAIRNESS
COMMITTEE PRESENTS
WOMEN IN THE LAW
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Wednesday, May 23, 2007
Hyatt Regency
Buffalo, New York

PROGRAM

Welcome Hon Rosalie S. Bailey
Hon. Robert J. Russell, Jr.

Presentation of Awards Mary Lou Hayden
Cathy S. Quattrini

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Rosalie S. Bailey, Chairperson
Mona Baskin, Esq.
Betty Calvo-Torres
Hon. Sheila A. DiTullio
Jacqueline Domkowski
Linda Fogle
Hon. Jerome C. Gorski
Mary Lou Hayden, Esq.
Brenda Heath, Esq.
Evelyn Hennings
Andrew B. Isenberg, Esq.
Anna Jochum
Colleen Kelly
Jean Levey
Danielle H. Maichle, Esq.
Cindy Milhouse
Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden
Ruby Olive
Cathy S. Quattrini, Esq.
Kim A. Reed
Lisa Bloch Rodwin, Esq.
Hon. Robert J. Russell, Jr.
Sheila Weir Schwaneckamp, Esq.
Lori Shurilla
Michelle Tendorf
Sharon Thomas
Marie Villari
Hon. John Ward
Oliver Young, Esq.

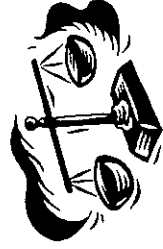
NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM 8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT WOMEN IN THE COURTS/ GENDER & RACIAL FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

The New York State Task Force on Women in the Courts issued its first formal report approximately 20 years ago indicating in unequivocal language that "gender bias against women litigants, attorneys and court employees is pervasive." Much has been achieved since that time. Today we recognize women who through determination and personal achievements, have assisted in the improvement and eliminating bias. These women have been pioneers in areas of the law and have contributed significantly to the judicial system, to its fairness and its sense of equality.

Thank you to the Honorees for your contributions.

HONOREES

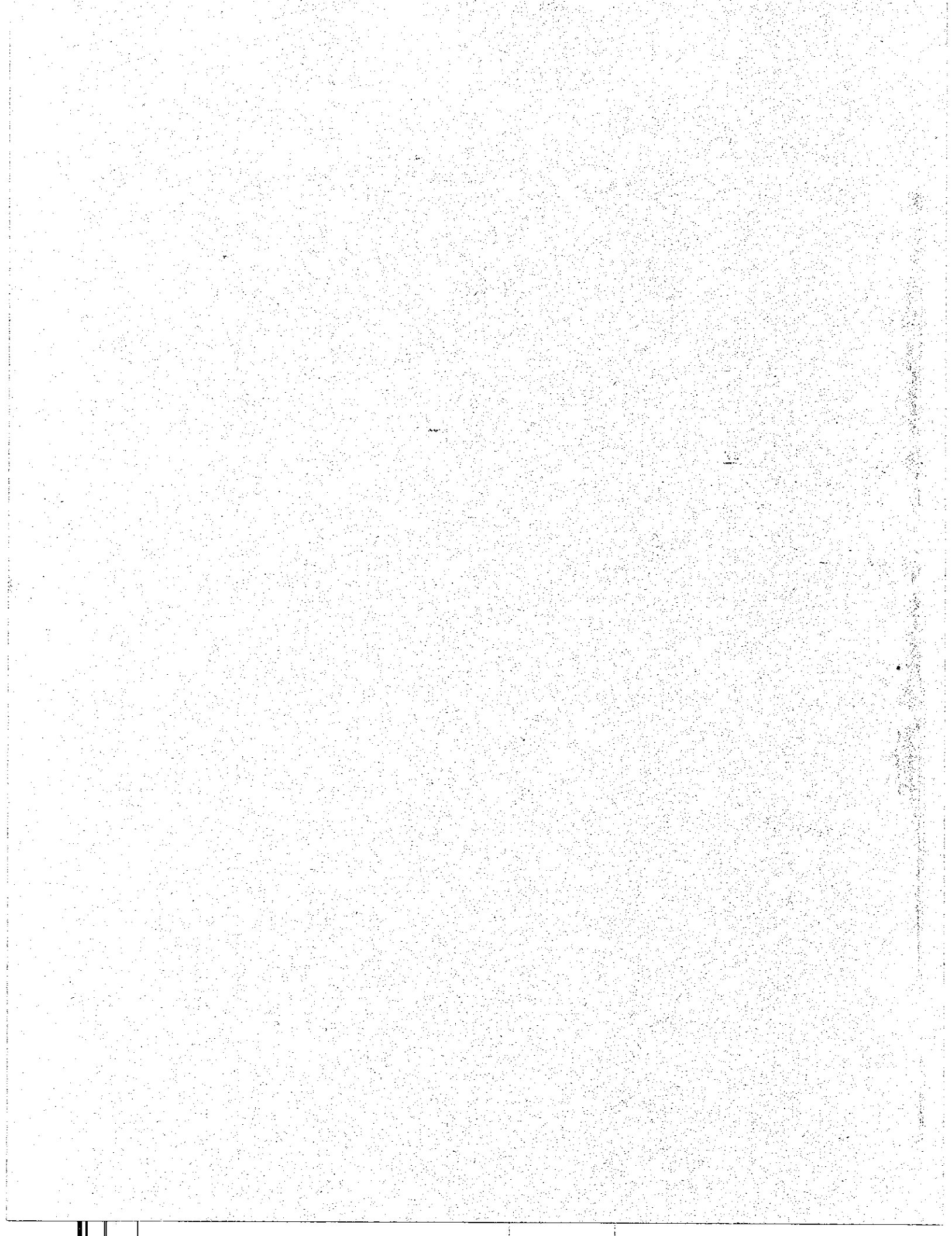
Marian Bass
Cynthia Falk, Esq.
Lee Marie Hilliker
Hon. Barbara Howe
Colleen Kelly
Hon. Mary Ann Killeen
Jeannette Riley
Hon. Sara S. Sperrazza
Hon. Cecil Weiner (Posthumous)



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

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman

Judge, Court of Claims
140 Grand Street, 5th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
914-289-2310



LOCAL COMMITTEES 2007-2008

Name of the Committee:

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

Name, Address and Telephone and Fax Numbers of Chair:

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

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

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

Local Committee Activities for the Past Year

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007:

We co-sponsored a CLE program with the Pace Women's Justice Center and the Westchester Women's Bar Association. A panel of experts discussed hypothetical fact patterns involving Domestic Violence and Financial Exploitation in Matrimonial Cases.

Activities for Women's History Month 2007:

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

New York State law mandates that public schools implement dress codes for students. The regulations adopted generally result in more limitations on the way females dress.

Discuss any valid reasons for such restrictions. What impact do these codes have on student behavior both in school and the community, educational achievement, future success, freedom of expression and the image of women?

Local bar associations contributed to the cash prizes which will be awarded at a breakfast in the courthouse on May 2, 2008.

Other Activities in the Past Year:

On April 20, 2007 we held a breakfast in White Plains to award the student winners of our 2007 Essay Contest in recognition of Women's History Month. At the breakfast, Hon. Terry Jane

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

During the course of the year, we had various meetings with guest speakers. These included Hon. Sam Walker, Justice of The Supreme Court sitting in the Integrated Domestic Violence part in Westchester County; Dan Weitz, Esq., Deputy Director, Court Operations, Coordinator of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program; and Hon. Anthony Scarpino, Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial part in the Ninth Judicial District. We also had a panel discussion on supervised visitation. Our guest speakers were: Camille Murphy, Director, Westchester Office for Women; Melinda Kaiser, Director, Supervised Visitation, YWCA, White Plains; Nancy Travers, First Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Social Services; and Thea Dubow, Program Administrator, Domestic Violence Systems, Westchester Office for Women.

Plans for Next Year:

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

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

The continuing lack of resources devoted to the Family Courts.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

It has been many years since our last sensitivity training for judges. It is time for an update.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court?

Continuing oversight of the Family Court system is imperative. In addition to increased judicial resources, we should identify needed support services, such as mental health professionals.

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

Programming ideas.

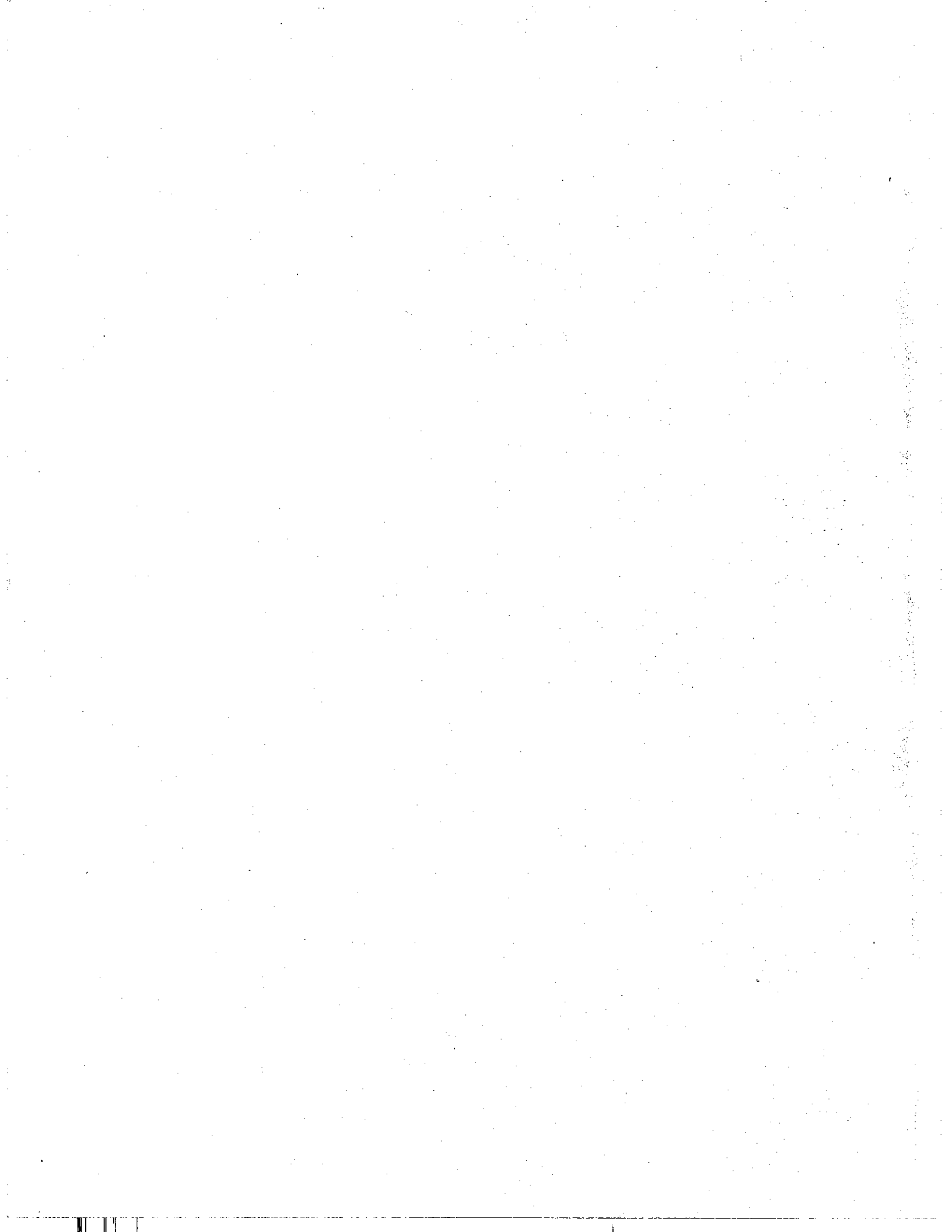
Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Margaret Reilly

District Court Judge
99 Main Street
Hempstead, NY 11550
516-572-2107

Stephen W. Schlissel, Esq.

Schlissel, Ostrow
200 Garden City Plaza, Suite 301
Garden City, NY 11530
516-877-1800



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

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

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

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

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

Use of Video Conferencing No

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

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007

See annexed. Program was planned to honor the contributions of ten (10) women working within the Court system.

Activities for Women's History Month 2008 We intend to Honor Judge Anne Pfau and 8 women who work in the courts in Nassau County.

What are your plans for next year? To further the interest of women and promote the great work of our women employees.

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

That women are given the same opportunity as men within the court system and are not discriminated against.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

Just to make sure that women who are the primary caretakers of children are not discriminated against because of this. Denied flex-hours, vacations etc.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court?

The lack of space.

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

A promotion of flexible schedules to assist with people's home life.

Please return this form by March 17, 2008, to:

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

**The Nassau County Judicial Committee
on Women in the Courts**



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BREAKING THE CYCLE

HON. MARGARET C. REILLY

Acting Judge of the County Court

Chair, Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

STEPHEN W. SCHLISSEL, ESQ.

Co-Chair, Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

NEW YORK STATE COURTS CEREMONIAL UNIT

Presentation of Colors

Video Presentation

Award Recipients

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| LINDA BALDWIN | BETI KAUFMAN |
| CHERYL DAVIS | LOUISE KUCZYNSKAS |
| ROSALIE FITZGERALD | DOROTHY PHILLIPS |
| REGINA GREENE | CONNIE RABER |
| DEBORAH HARVEY | JOANN RUSSELL |

Special Presentation to
LOIS SCHWABER, ESQ.
Director of Legal Services
Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

HON. ANTHONY MARANO
Administrative Judge of Nassau County

October 26, 2007



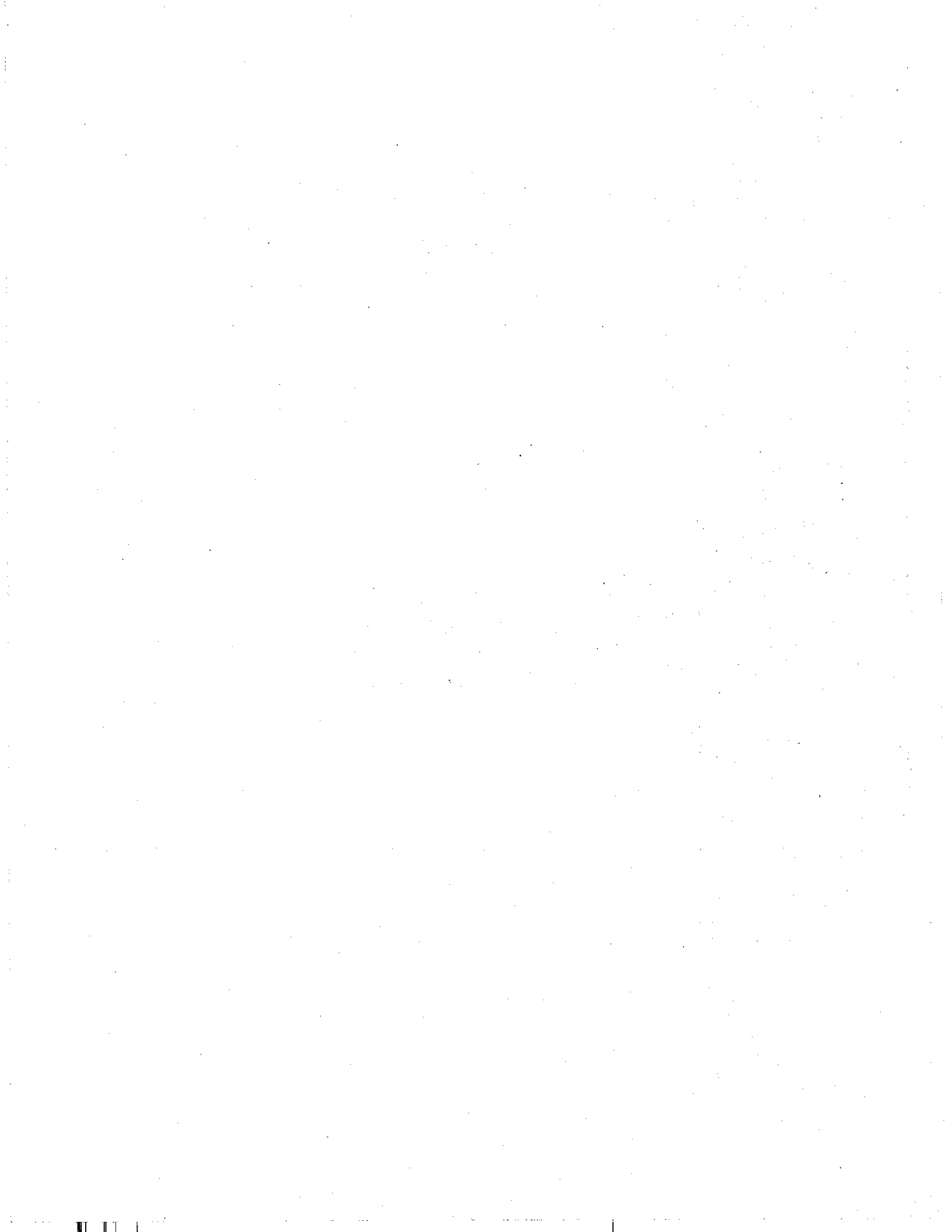
Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee

Martha M. Rogers, Esq.

Deputy Chief Clerk, Suffolk County Court
Arthur M. Cromarty Court Complex
210 Center Drive
Riverhead, New York 11901
631-852-2120

Lynn C. Fullshire

Principal Law Librarian
Supreme Court Law Library
Arthur M. Cromarty Court Complex
220 Center Drive - 1st Floor
Riverhead, New York 11901
631-852-2418



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

Name of the Committee

Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Name and Title of Chair

Lynn Fullshire, Co-Chair and Martha M. Rogers, Co-Chair

No. Members 44 No. of Meetings 8 Average Attendance 20 Use of Video Conferencing? No

Composition of the Committee

Members of the judiciary, private practitioners, court employees, law school administrators, bar associations and retirees belong to the Committee.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007

In recognition of Domestic Violence Month, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee sponsored the forum "Sexual Assault in Intimate Relationships: Best Practices for Intervention." The program was presented by the Center for Court Innovation with guest speakers Hon. Andrew A. Crecca, Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court IDV Part, and Kathryn Ford, Coordinator for Domestic Violence Training Programs. Held in the Central Jury Room in the John P. Cohalan, Jr. Court Complex in Central Islip, the program focused on the physical and emotional tolls of intimate partner sexual abuse and the steps that can be taken to help victims. It also featured a live video remote broadcast to the Riverhead court building. CLE credits were available to participating attorneys. The program, coordinated by IDV Senior Court Analyst Margaret Robinson, attracted more than 50 participants.



Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee hosts the November 2007 domestic violence forum. Pictured, left to right, are committee members Lisa St. Rose, Lynn Fullshire, Margaret Robinson, Avemaria Thompson and Sue Fox.

Activities for Women's History Month 2008

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee sponsored a Court wide celebration. Following the national theme of "Women's Art: Women's Vision," the Committee organized an art show which featured the works of student artists from local elementary, middle and high schools. The work included sculpture, drawings, paintings and other media. The two week display was featured on the main floor of the courthouse in Central Islip. On March 14, 2008, a ceremony and reception was held to kick off the event. District Administrative Judge H. Patrick Leis III spoke to art teachers, students, members of the judiciary and court employees. Inspirational poems for women were read by the newest (2 ½ months) and the most senior (38 years!) female court employees in the Suffolk County court system. A highlight of the event was a dramatic reading by District Court Judge Gaetan B. Lozito. Judge Lozito, a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, read several selections, including the famous speech by Portia, the lawyer and heroine of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Justice Leis presented participating art students with certificates recognizing their amazing achievements.



District Administrative Judge H. Patrick Leis III presents certificates to art students at March 14, 2008 art exhibit and reception



Associate Court Clerk Sue Fox, event coordinator, with District Administrative Judge H. Patrick Leis III

Activities for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2007

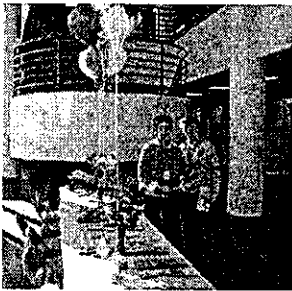
Working in partnership with the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee sponsored a County-wide courthouse alert to raise

awareness on breast cancer issues. In October, 2007, two separate events were held at courthouse locations in Central Islip and in Riverhead. Volunteers distributed materials provided by the American Cancer Society and the National Institute of Health. The events were scheduled to coincide with the Court's busiest days. Literally hundreds of people, including nearly 300 Grand Jurors, received this important information.

Central Islip Breast Cancer Alert



Riverhead Breast Cancer Alert



In addition to the courthouse events, the Committee meeting of September 2007 featured guest speaker Susan B. Roden, chairperson of the South Fork Breast Health Coalition. Ms. Roden spearheads a grass roots volunteer advocacy organization dedicated to raising awareness and to supporting people whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. In addition to educating the committee about the work of advocates in this field, Ms. Roden brought with her several prosthetic breasts. The committee members at this meeting, men and women, learned how to do a self breast exam.

Activities for American Heart Month 2008

In February of 2008, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee sponsored County-wide courthouse events to promote heart health. Cardiovascular diseases are our nation's top killer. To promote heart health, Committee volunteers in two locations distributed educational materials. A special feature of the event, held on two separate days, was the presence

of registered nurses from Stony Brook University Medical Center. The nurses provided free blood pressure screenings to those who wished to participate. As has happened in past years, health problems were identified by the nurses. In one instance, an individual was advised to report immediately to an emergency room. Now in its third year, the Committee's heart health event has grown in size annually and has become quite popular among court employees.

Heart Health Events in Central Islip and in Riverhead



Suffolk County Sex Offense Court

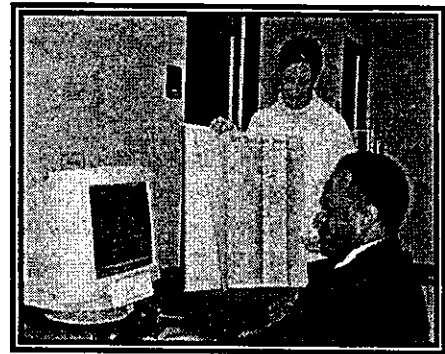
In 2007, Suffolk County opened a designated sex offense court in the County Court. On November 14, 2007, the Committee met with Victor Rossomano, Chief Clerk of the Suffolk County Court, and Maureen Hordy, the sex offense court's resource coordinator, to learn about this new project. They described the workings of the new part and provided information about risk level assessments, community notification and legal issues. Practical advice about internet and agency resources was also given. In addition to the educational benefits to Committee members, this was a great opportunity for Court personnel to establish relationships with community partners and service providers who were at the meeting.

Technology in the Courts

On December 12, 2007, the Committee had the unique opportunity to learn about cutting edge legal research tools via a meeting with members of the Law Library and the court's IT staff. Guest speakers were Steve Duzant, Senior PC Analyst in the IT Department, Chris Tucker, Senior Court Analyst in the Law Library and Michele Warner, Senior Law Librarian. These talented individuals set up a live demonstration to show Committee members how to find electronic calendars, track court cases and find resources for legal research. Using two separate computers, they also demonstrated the capability of librarians to "take over" a user's computer screen and electronically aid people who need help with research. There was a lot of new and unique information that was shared. Many members left the meeting with plans to share this information with co-workers.

Domestic Violence and Sex Abuse

On February 20, 2008, the Committee hosted a meeting on the topic of "The Role of Child Protective Services in Cases of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse." The Committee was extremely fortunate to have two very special guest speakers: Gregory J. Blass, Chief Deputy Commissioner for the Suffolk County Department of Social Services, and Sharon Stenger, Assistant Bureau Director for Child Protective Services. These speakers covered a wide range of topics, including training and supervision of CPS workers, case management, updates to computer and camera inventory and the general organization of CPS. A very interesting aspect of this meeting was the question and answer period. Knowledgeable Committee members, including members of the judiciary and employees whose work involves CPS cases, keyed in on important issues and requested further meetings with DSS representatives to work together for positive results.



December 2007 meeting featured a demonstration of cutting edge technology in the courts

Project Assist

Throughout the year, Committee members work on Project Assist, a program which focuses in large part upon domestic violence and distributes pamphlets, agency materials and health care information within the court system. Wherever possible, Spanish translations are also made available. All new materials are reviewed prior to distribution to designated information consoles in Suffolk County courthouses.

Children's Center

Throughout the year, members of the Committee participate and support the work of the courthouse child care center in Central Islip. Members regularly participate in mitten drives and in the annual Bagels and Books event that collects new books for children.

What are your plans for next year?

On April 9, 2008, the Committee will be convening for "Sub-Committee Day" to plan events for the 2008-2009 calendar. Based on the past success of the heart health event and the breast cancer alert, it is likely that these two annual events will be continued. The March 2009 Women's History Month celebration will most likely be the focal point of next year's activities with the specific project yet to be determined. In addition, the Committee already has been invited to organize monthly meetings centered on the themes of sex offenders, interaction with Child Protective Services and programs to boost confidence in teenage girls.

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

The issues of domestic violence and representation in matrimonial cases continue to be at the forefront of women's issues in the court system.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

There is a real need for increased pro bono representation. Cases of domestic violence, abuse and neglect are continuing to increase in Suffolk County. Litigants, mostly women, without financial resources to obtain counsel become lost in the process. The loss of income spirals into other aspects of their lives, including the ability to pay rent and feed and support their families. At present, the waiting list for Nassau/Suffolk Law Services representation in matrimonial matters is one year.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court?

1. The need for pro bono legal representation
2. The need for programs and resources to teach parenting skills
3. The need to address mental health issues and provide mental health services for children in Family Court. In Suffolk County, there are not enough facilities and beds for these individuals. The school system is not equipped to handle this problem.

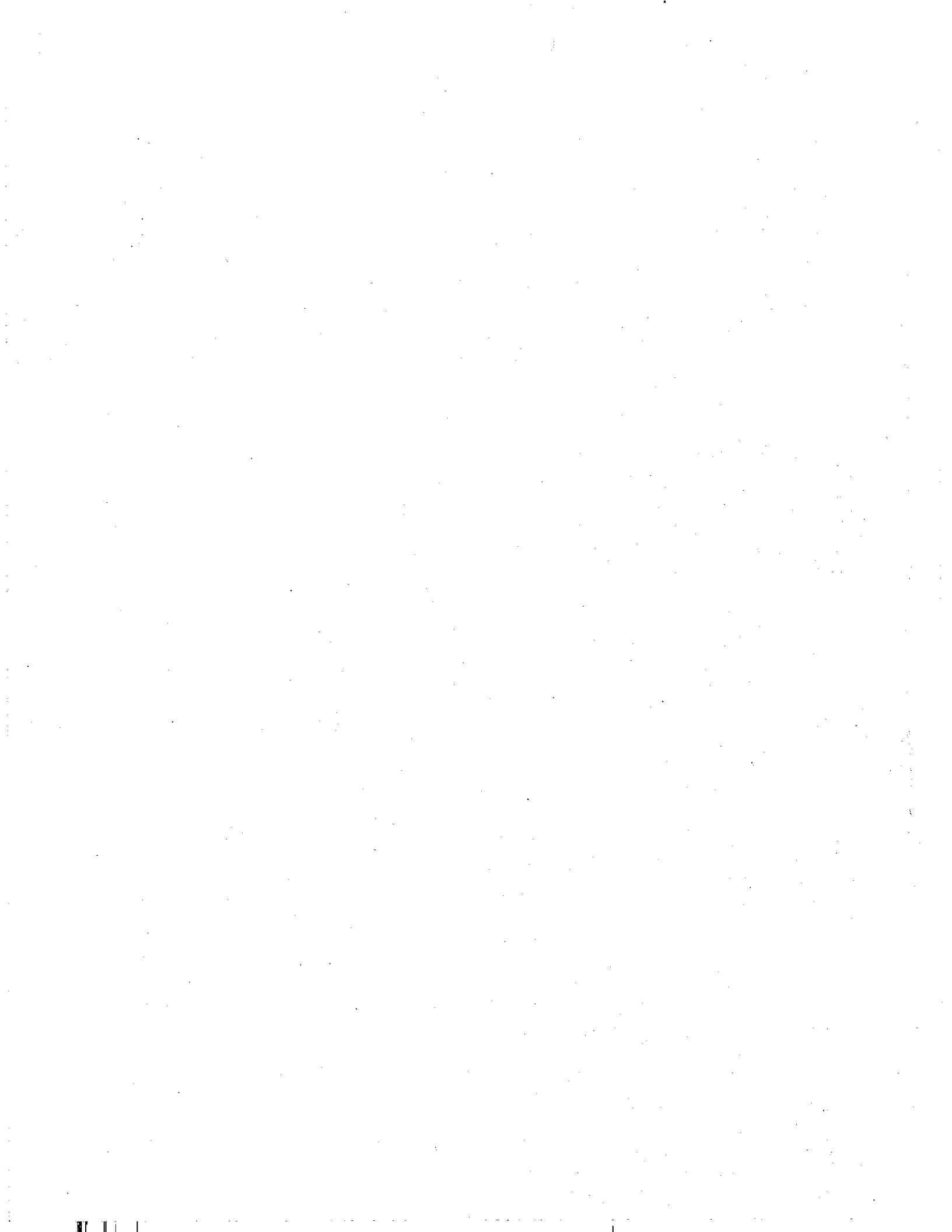
What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

The Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts would welcome the opportunity to work with the NYS Committee to launch an innovative program to address the problems outlined above. The issues faced by litigants in Family Court need a long term solution.

New York City Civil Court Committee

Hon. Bernice Siegal

Supervising Judge
Civil Court, Queens County
89-17 Sutphin Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11435
718-262-7365



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

Name of the Committee: New York City Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee

Name and Title of Chair: Bernice D. Siegal, Supervising Judge, Civil Court Queens County

No. Members ___ No. of Meetings ___ Average Attendance ___ Use of Video Conferencing? ___

See Attached.

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc.): The primary goal of the overall Committee was to establish a Committee in each courthouse across disciplines (e.g., Judges, Court Attorney, Court Officers, Clerks, etc. (See Attached).

(For reports on activities, please include co-sponsors, size of the attendance, and copies of any press.)

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007: N/A - Committee was not yet in effect.

Activities for Women's History Month 2008:

March 27, 2008 - Civil Court, County of New York, "How to Effectively Address Incidents of Gender Discrimination in the Court System (See attached).

March 24, 2008 - Civil Court, Richmond County, "CLE with Small Claims Arbitrator Association" (See attached flyer).

April 2, 2008 - Civil Queens County - "Financial Education, Money Debt Management and Consumer Debt".

Other Activities in the Past Year:

Establishment of committee: coordination of free mammography screening in Queens Supreme and Civil courts together with JALBCA and the Women's Outreach Network.

What are your plans for next year? "Take Your Child to Work Day"; see Minutes for each County; convene meetings of Sub-Committee Chairs either by video conferencing or in-person to better coordinate local activities. Broadcast local programs to other counties to avoid redundancy and increase sharing.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do think are important this year? Queens County Sub-Committee meeting which includes plans to conduct a Lunch and Learn Series on Financial Management: (i.e., Work Live Assistance Program, Safety Issues for Woman and Children, etc.) (See attached March 13, Civil Court Minutes of June Briese.) New York County Committee Minuted dated February 21, 2008, conducted a Lunch and Learn Lecture Series, established a Mentoring Program and evaluation outreach.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs? Needs further exploration.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court? N/A

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts? We would like to do video conferencing to be shared by all Counties. Additionally, the Civil Court Committee currently has no funds to help underwrite its activities. Judge Fisher has agreed to provide dessert and coffee for the New York County Women's History Month lecture. However, a budget would be appropriate in order to disperse funds to support efforts fo the sub-committee.

Please return this form by March 17, 2007, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel, NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts,
25 Beaver St., Rm 878, New York, NY 10004, 212-428-2793 (Fax) Tgoodman@Courts.state.ny.us

Attachment No. 1: New York County Civil Court Committee

- Hon. Anna Culley, Queens Civil Court
- Hon. Maurcen Healy, Queens Civil Court
- Hon. John Stanley, Kings County Housing
- Hon. Verna Saunders, New York County
- Hon. Loren Bailey-Schiffman, Kings Civil Court
- Dakota D. Ramseur, Kings County, Court Attorney
- Hon. Ellen Spodek, Kings Civil Court
- Kristen Borruso, Kings Civil, Court Attorney

Attachment No. 2: SUB-COMMITTEES

Bronx County Housing Court

- Judge Arlene Hahn
- Sheila Feinerman, Esq.

* Bronx County Civil Court Participates in the Supreme Court Program.

Kings County Housing & Civil:

- Hon John Stanley - Chair
- Hon. Verna Saunders - Co-Chair
- Hon. Loren Baily-Schiffman

New York County Housing and Civil:

- Hon. Jean Schneider - Chair

Members:

- Carol Alt
- Hon. Cynthia Kern
- Hon. David B. Cohen
- Debbie Melnick
- Donna Ricci
- Hon. Gary Marton
- Hannah Cohen
- Hon. Barbara Jaffe
- Jo-Ann Carey
- Joel Kullas
- Juliet Howard
- Frances Ortiz
- Lorna Pringle
- Meryl Strassner
- Hon. Michelle Schreiber
- Saliann Scarpulla
- Sara Douglas
- Sharon Sandiford
- Sonja Wickham

Queens County Housing & Civil:

- Hon. Bernice Siegal - Co-Chair
- June Briese - Co-Chair
- Barbara Oliveri
- Melinda Alexander
- Hon. Maureen Healy
- Christine Stuart
- Monica Dingle
- Anita Postyn

Richmond County Housing & Civil:

- Marina Mundy

*Gender fairness
women in the courts*

From: Bernice Siegal
To: Douglas, Hon. Laura; Jackman-Brown, Pam; Lansden, John; Madhavan, Jay...
CC: Goodman, Jill
Date: 12/4/2007 9:44 AM
Subject: Gender Fairness Committee of the Civil Court

The committee has been dormant for a few years (with the exception of a short meeting last year Loren Bailey Schiffman, Pam Jackman Brown, Jill Goodman and me) and as chair, I would like to revive the committee and make it relevant to our city wide court. Accordingly, I would propose that on January 3rd at 3:30 pm (prior to our new judges reception), that the committee convene with you or a representative from your court. I will ask for a meeting place at 111 Centre. The theme of this year's annual meeting will be focused on Family Court, but this not necessarily be our focus, although we have some overlapping issues. I envision that each courthouse have its own committee with

- 1) an activity planned appropriate to the courthouse during Women's History Month and/ or a City Wide Civil Court event
- 2) a review of how our courts have met the challenge to implement the recommendations of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts issued in 2002 and other recommendations issued afterwards
- 3) create an agenda (e.g., legislative) appropriate to the needs of Civil Court and/or your courthouse
- 4) expand committee membership to representatives from all bargaining units (e.g., court officers, clerks, court attorneys, etc.) as well as judges.

Please let me know who from your court might be assigned to be a member of the committee. I will ask Jill to provide each member with the April 2002 report and the April 2007 report.

I appreciate your help in reestablishing this committee.

The Women in the Courts/Gender Fairness Committee
of the Civil Court of the City of New York, County of New York

Proudly Presents:

**“HOW TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS
INCIDENTS OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION
IN THE COURT SYSTEM”**

A Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Program

Thursday, March 27, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Twelfth Floor Boardroom

Speakers:

ALICE M. CHAPMAN-MINUTELLO

Deputy Director Workforce Diversity
Workforce Diversity Office

ELIZABETH CANDREVA, ESQ.

Assistant Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters
Office of the Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters

Dessert and Beverages will be Served

For Information Contact: Joel Kullas, Esq. at x 63373

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Women in the Courts/Gender Fairness Committee
FROM: June Briese
DATE: Thurs. March 13, 2008
RE: Agenda for upcoming events, meetings, and programs

The committee met on Thurs. March 13, 2008 at Judge Siegal's chambers. The following lunch and learn programs were discussed and are being worked on as we speak:

Mon. March 31, 2008: Women's Issues/history or Financial issues, money management and consumer debt (CLARO). Judge Siegal ext. 27333 and June Briese ext. 27354 are the contact persons.

Thurs. April 24, 2008: Take Your Child to Work Day. Valerie Canty, contact person ext. 27315.

May 2008 (date has not been chosen): "How To Effectively Address Incidents of Gender Discrimination in the Court System". June is contact person ext. 27354.

June 2008 (date has not been chosen): "Work Life Assistance Program". Barbara Oliveri is contact person ext. 27146.

Summer 2008 (date has not been chosen): "Safety Issues for Women and Children". Christine Stuart is contact person ext. 27111.

October 2008 (date has not been chosen): "Domestic Violence Month" Barbara Oliveri is contact person ext. 27146.

There will be continuing financial Lunch and Learn programs and events during the 2008 calendar year:

- Debt Management;
- Identity Theft and How to Handle It;
- Investment Strategies;
- Deferred Comp - How Do I Invest?;
- Retirement Distributions, Social Security, and Your Pension Plan;
- Eldercare planning - Long Term Care;
- Risk Management;
- Financial Principles;
- Roadblocks to a Comfortable Retirement;
- Basic Estate Planning and Why You Need a Will;
- College Financial Planning; and
- How to Save Money on Taxes.

We anticipate more programs in the upcoming months and will keep you apprised accordingly.

The Committee sponsored the Mammogram Van in January 2008 located outside of the Civil Court in Queens County to assist women in the detection of breast cancer.

Also, the committee is looking forward to celebrating women employees and the Anniversary of the Women in the Courts/Gender Fairness Committee in March 2009.

If anyone has any suggestions for future programs/events please contact June Briese at ext. 27354. Thank you for your continued participation and cooperation.

From: Bernice Siegal
To: Cennamo, Michelle
Date: 3/13/2008 3:35 PM
Subject: Fwd: Women in the Courts-Follow-Up Details

>>> Pam Jackman-Brown 3/7/2008 10:09 AM >>>
FYI-- update of the Women in the Courts Committee in New York County.

>>> Verna Saunders 3/6/2008 6:04 PM >>>
As promised, for the March Program:

1. Flyers-color copies already requested. Posting by committee member or ask County Clerk's office.
Send by email to "All Users at 111" via Groupwise.
2. DCAS- To be notified one week or so before event regarding room preparation for set-up, including vacuuming, chair arrangement, etc. and clean-up that will be necessary.
3. Dessert and beverages (coffee and lemonade) provided by Judge Fisher; Lorna Pringle from that office will assist.
4. Speakers will arrive at approximately 12:40 PM and White Street officer should be advised to expect them.
5. The speakers are bringing material/literature for at least 50 attendees.

FYI: The Women in the Courts/Gender Fairness Committee Members are as follows:

Carol Alt
Hon. Cynthia Kern
Hon. David B. Cohen
Debbie Melnick
Donna Ricci
Hon. Gary Marton
Hannah Cohen
Hon. Barbara Jaffe
Jo-Ann Carey
Joel Kullas
Juliet Howard
Frances Ortiz
Lorna Pringle
Meryl Strassner
Hon. Michelle Schreiber
Saliann Scarpulla
Sara Douglas
Sharon Sandiford
Sonja Wickham

Feel free to contact me regarding anything else which may arise.

Best of luck,
Verna

From: Marina Mundy
To: Siegal, Bernice
Date: 3/6/2008 3:56 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Women In the Courts-NY County

I just wanted to let you know that Richmond County has been working on some stuff of our own! On March 24th the Civil Court in conjunction with the small claims arbitrators assoc. will sponsor a lunch and learn lecture featuring Marshal Ileana Rivera. She is one of only six female Marshals in nyc! 1 CLE credit will be given to all attendees from 1-2 p.m. Let us know if you will be attending!

Hon. Marina Cora Mundy
Housing Court Judge
Richmond County

>>> Bernice Siegal 2/22/2008 9:40 AM >>>

I wanted to Share with you the report from New York County. I am abashed that we have not gotten as far as they have. Please let me know if you are working with the Supreme Court committee or have established your own. In the Bronx, perhaps Housing Court might want to work on a program as it is in a separate building from Civil, yes? Please advise. Thanks.

Hon. Bernice D. Siegal
Supervising Judge
Queens Civil Court
89-17 Sutphin Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11435
(718) 262 7333

>>> Verna Saunders 2/11/2008 12:01 PM >>>

Dear Judge Siegal:

Last month, the New York County branch of the Civil Court Women in the Courts Gender/Fairness Committee formed. With the interest and participation of over 20 employees, including judicial and non-judicial personnel, I believe that we are off to a great start.

Our upcoming plans and proposed activities are as follows:

1) "Lunch & Learn" Lecture Series

In March, we will recognize National Women's History Month with a Lunch and Learn Lecture Series geared toward addressing the issues and concerns of women in the Civil Court workplace. The idea is to have a series of internal development dialogues with key presenters about topics of value and interest to Civil Court judicial and non-judicial personnel.

2) Mentoring

Goal: To establish connections in the workplace for support and coaching in the area of career development, including resume preparation and interview assistance.

3) Outreach

To evaluate outreach venues for ongoing Women/Gender Fairness Programming, including area schools; non-profit women's social service organizations; the Civil Court Community Seminar Series; and Court Tours.

Next Meeting

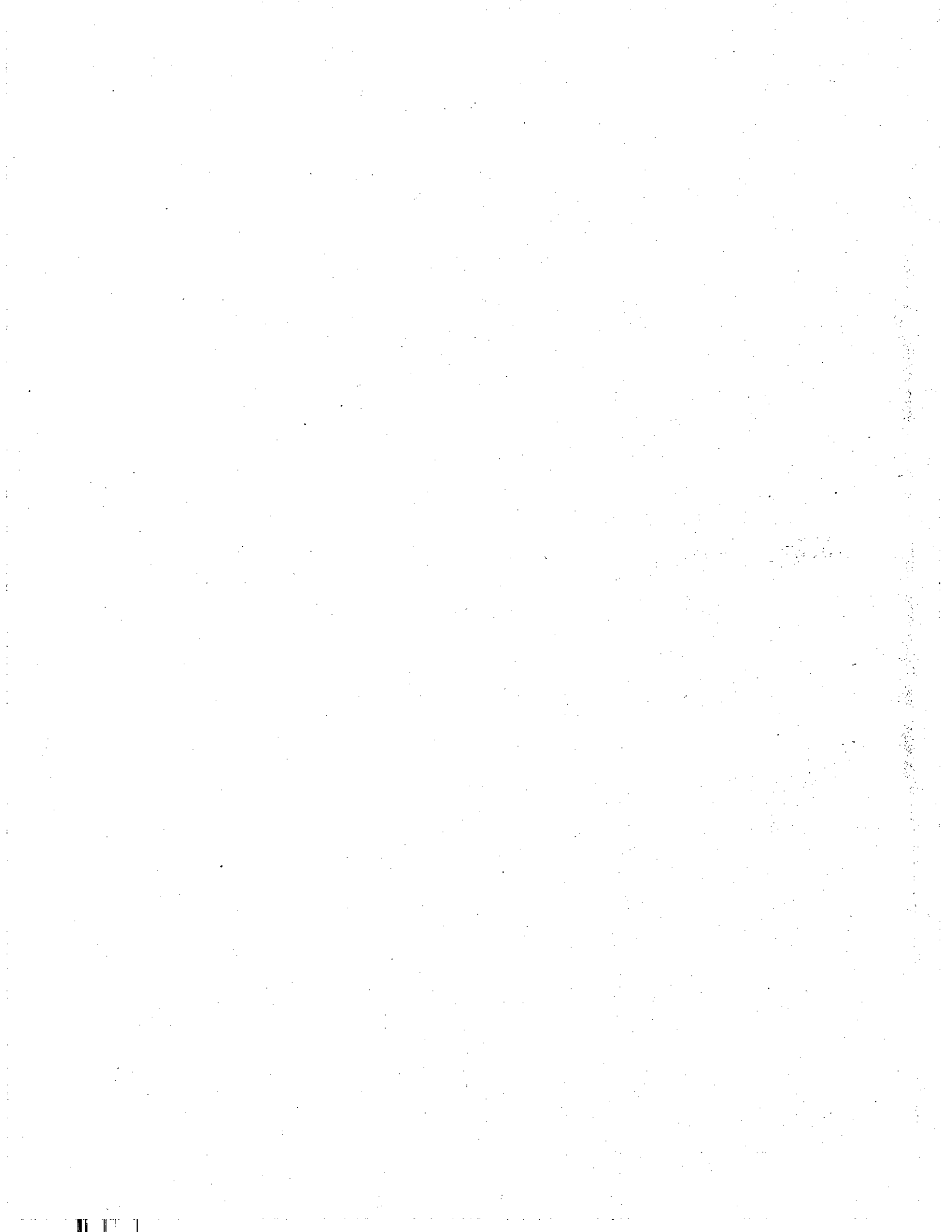
Our next meeting is Thursday, February 14, 2008, at which we will share updates regarding our March event with subcommittee reports on Topic Development and Securing Speaker/Presenters.

Please let me know if these proposed activities are acceptable and inform me of any additional information required in preparation for our next city-wide meeting.

Verna L. Saunders
Court Attorney
Housing Court
New York County

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

Hon. Toko Serito
Kings County Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-404-9473



**Citywide Gender Fairness Committee
Criminal Court of the City of NY
2007-2008**

Name of the Committee

Citywide Gender Fairness Committee ("Citywide GFC")
Criminal Court of the City of New York

Name and Title of Chair

Judge Toko Serita

Members

The Citywide committee is composed of three subcommittees - one each for Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn (see attached reports from each committee):

Manhattan GFC
co-chairs: Judge Rita Mella & Judge Tanya Kennedy

Queens GFC
chair: Judge Mary O'Donoghue

Brooklyn GFC _
chair: Judge Toko Serita

No. of Members:

Manhattan	6
Queens	10
Brooklyn	13

No. of Meetings:

Local subcommittee meetings (see attached reports from each county)
plus two Citywide Videoconferencing meetings

December 18, 2007 = 12 members present

February 5, 2008 = 20 members present

Composition:

Judges, court attorneys, administrators, clerks, officers, interpreters, defense bar and prosecution, men & women.

Activities

(For each subcommittee activities, see individual reports attached);

Activities of the Citywide Comm 2007 -2008

The primary activity of the Citywide committee during 2007 was focused on establishing local subcommittees in each borough that would function independently and yet be part of a larger Citywide committee. Our challenge was to work toward creating a local presence in each of the counties. Having subcommittees in each county would enable them to work on a local level and be responsive to the needs and issues of women in the courts and other constituents & communities. A citywide committee permits members from the subcommittees to come together, share ideas and concerns, and work collectively on a larger scale around common goals and objectives. Our committee has therefore made use of new technologies, including videoconferencing, to function as a citywide committee and ensure the participation of all our members from each respective borough.

The citywide committee is currently working on a mission statement that will provide coherence for our local and collective work. While each county is involved in different projects, we are planning a joint citywide presentation for sometime in 2008. We are currently meeting as a Citywide committee approximately every three months and are having our first citywide "Meet & Greet" in April, 2008. Our next videoconferencing meeting is scheduled for May, 2008.

**Gender Fairness Committee
New York Criminal Court Subcommittee
2007-2008**

Name of the Committee

Gender Fairness Committee
New York Criminal Court Subcommittee

Name and Title of Chair

Judge Tanya Kennedy and Judge Rita Mella

No. of Members

6

No. of Meetings

4 (including two by videoconferencing with other counties)

Average Attendance

5-6

Composition

Judges, clerks, administrators

Activities

The committee was reconstituted in January 2008. Since then, we have had 4 meetings. Two of those have been planning meetings for events commemorating Women's History Month.

Activities for Women's History Month 2008

Wellness Seminar:

Eldercare: Understanding the Issues
New York County Criminal Court
March 12, 2008.

This presentation was geared to our staff and addressed issues affecting the

elderly and their care-givers, who tend to be women.

Human Trafficking :

March 31, 2008.

This event will be a CLE presentation and is being co-sponsored by the New York Women's Bar Association and the New York County Bar Association. The presentation will address the new Human Trafficking law and other issues surrounding human trafficking.

Programs and Specialized Parts:

The New York County Criminal Court continues to have a specialized part for Domestic Violence cases. A full time Resource Coordinator coordinates the referral and follow up of defendants to treatment programs that are part of the court's mandate in the disposition in these cases, such as anger management programs and programs for batterers. The coordinator also provides information to the court regarding the availability of alternative sentencing programs in appropriate cases. The specialized domestic violence part continues to work jointly with the New York County Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV) in the Supreme Court, and cases are transferred to the IDV court when the families are involved in simultaneous proceedings in more than one court. The IDV court provides a more comprehensive approach to families affected by domestic violence by gathering information from the different proceedings and offering services that address the families' different needs.

The Midtown court continues to handle most of the prostitution cases in New York County. Defendants charged with prostitution-related offenses are typically arraigned in that court. The cases of the rest of the defendants are transferred to the Midtown Court when a disposition is not reached at arraignment.

The Midtown court, with its unique approach to problem-solving of issues affecting the community, has been able to develop specialized programs that address the particular concerns surrounding prostitution-related offenses. The CHOICES program described in last year's report of the Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee is a good example of this problem-solving approach. During 2007, the program was enhanced and now provides 5 to 10 sessions of direct services to female defendants charged with prostitution offenses. The services include employment training, referral to local health clinics, counseling about intimate violence, financial management training where participants learn to manage their finances and information such as opening bank accounts, balancing checkbooks, clearing bad credit and opening a small business, workshops where participants learn about legal rights and responsibilities and the consequences of their actions, and a creative arts project. Thanks to the participation of certified court interpreters paid by the Unified Court System, the CHOICES program is offered to Spanish, Korean and Chinese speaking defendants.

In 2007, of the total number of prostitution-related cases handled and disposed of in the Midtown court, 40 percent received non-incarceration sentences that involved the provision of services designed to guide the participant out of the prostitution lifestyle.

In addition, in August 2007, the Midtown court developed the Women in Need of Support (WINS) program. This program meets twice a month and is open to all female defendants. It offers presentations on issues such as self-esteem, family reunification, stress management, conflict in the work place, and creating a life balance. Judging from the participants' response, the program has been a success.

**Gender Fairness Committee
Queens Criminal Court Subcommittee
2007-2008**

Name of the Committee

Gender Fairness Committee
Queens Criminal Court Subcommittee

Name and Title of Chair

Judge Mary O'Donoghue

No. of Members

10

No. of Meetings

2 Local + 2 Videoconferencing = 4

Average Attendance

5-10

Composition

There are ten members representing the bench, the defense bar, the DA's office, clerks, court officers and interpreters.

Activities

The group was created in late 2007. We have met twice and have discussed a number of things but have not yet scheduled anything but the essay contest. The committee has decided to co-sponsor, with the Supreme Court gender fairness committee an essay contest for high school students to commemorate Women's History Month. Members of the committee will review the essays and four winners will be selected. The winners will also attend an awards dinner and shadow members of the committee for a day. Additionally, we have a few of the committee members exploring space for a small gym and we are going to have a personal trainer and nutritionist come in to do a lunchtime event. Judge Camacho has also agreed to do a presentation on teenage prostitution during a lunchtime event, sometime in April or May. Given the interest in

the trafficking issue, the committee would also like to bring this presentation to Queens, if possible.

Summary of Other Activities in Queens Criminal Court 2007-2008

Domestic Violence Part(AP-4): Queens County Criminal Court continues to maintain a dedicated domestic violence part. The part is presently presided over by Judge William Harrington. The part handles cases involving defendants charged with crimes against their spouse, live-in partner and same sex partners. The part also conducts bench and jury trials in the same courtroom on a regular basis. In addition, felony complaints involving domestic violence cases are also handled in that part, including subsequent dispositions to Superior Court Informations in Part D-40.

The number of filings in Part AP-4 has increased significantly over the past several years: In 2005 there were 774 cases pending in AP-4 on Jan 1, 2005. On Jan 1, 2008 there were 1175 cases pending in the same part. This does not include the cases that have been transferred to IDV.

Citywide Domestic Violence Committee continues to meet about three times a year to discuss issues in the area of domestic violence. The committee is presided over by Judge Deborah Stevens Modica and includes a representative from the DA's office, Department of Probation, NYPD, Safe Horizon and other domestic violence programs.

Prostitution Intervention Program: In Part T-2, women charged with prostitution are given an opportunity to try to leave that life. Traditionally, cases involving women charged with prostitution have been viewed as "disposable" cases involving dispositions in which a few more days are added to the sentence imposed on their last case. Judge Fernando Camacho has taken a different approach to these cases. After learning that the average age that a women gets involved in prostitution is 13 years old and typically kept in that life by brutal force and drug addiction, Judge Camacho has asked his colleagues to adjourn cases of young women charged with prostitution to his part. He has arranged for the GEMS and SAVVY programs to work in the part. These programs provide comprehensive resources to the young women. A major problem is how to effectively deal with pimps that show up in the part who try to continue the cycle of intimidation. Judge Camacho has developed an excellent one hour presentation detailing how young women are lured into this life; how they are brutally forced to remain; and the work of the GEMS/Savvy programs. He has given the presentation to the Citywide Committee on Domestic Violence, at the Judicial Institute and at judicial seminars. He has agreed to do this presentation for the Citywide Gender Fairness Committee sometime this spring/summer.

Outreach to Schools: Two years ago, Judge Deborah Stevens Modica, Judge Mary O'Donoghue, and Judge Fernando Camacho initiated a relationship with the local intermediate schools, whereby the judges would go to visit and speak to a class of

students. That same class would then come to the courthouse for a tour, including a sitting on the bench in with Judge O'Donoghue and a mock trial with Judge Camacho. Frequently, the schools request a female judge come to speak so as to provide positive examples to young women.

Also, Judge Modica established a shadowing program at the request of Queens Vocational High School. Students from Queens Vocational H.S. come to the courthouse for day-long visits as part of the program. Each student "shadows" either a judge, court officer, defense attorney, DA, interpreter, or clerk for the day to examine the aspects of the vocation. Afterwards, there is a lengthy discussion to discuss the various professions. Thus far, approximately 200 students have shadowed professional who work in the courthouse.

Queens County Youth Court: Queens County Youth Court is a ten-year old, peer based program that trains high school students on how to be trial attorneys. After the training is complete, the students then represent (prosecute and defend) young men and women against allegations of relatively minor offenses that have resulted in a Juvenile Report being filed by the NYPD. Students assume the role of prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judge. They learn the skills of direct examination, cross examination, opening and closing remarks, developing a theory of the case and interviewing witnesses. Trials are held and jurors are obtained through the NYPD Explorers program. The Queens County Youth Court is the only Youth Court in the State of New York where the person's guilt or innocence is litigated in addition to sentencing in the event of a verdict of guilty.

**Gender Fairness Committee
Brooklyn Criminal Court Subcommittee
2007-2008**

Name of the Committee

Gender Fairness Committee
Brooklyn Criminal Court Subcommittee

Name and Title of Chair

Judge Toko Serita

No. of Members

13

No. of Meetings

4 Local, +2 Citywide Videoconferencing = 6

Average Attendance

7-12

Composition

Judges, clerks, court attorneys, administrators, defense bar & prosecution

Activities

10th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Program, 2007

"Stalking and Teen Dating Violence"

Brooklyn Criminal Court

November 15, 2007

Presenters: Joe Samalin, Trainer

Anti-Stalking Program, Safe Horizon

Christian Burgess, LMSW

Director of School Programs

Safe Horizon

Activities for Women's History Month 2008:

2008 Wellness Series -
"Nutrition & Stress Management"
Brooklyn Criminal Court
March 7, 2008
Presenter: Ana Maria Moore
Holistic Health Counselor

"Human Trafficking: The New Sex & Labor Trafficking Laws and their Impact on the Courts"
Brooklyn Criminal Court
Thursday, March 27, 2008
Presenters: Gabriela Villareal, Project Director
Anti-Trafficking Program, Safe Horizon

Sapna Patel, Esq., Staff Attorney
Sex Workers Project, Urban Justice Center

Other Activities for 2008

April 2008

2008 Wellness Series -
Dr. Shabara McDaniel, who will address women's health issues.

May 2008

"Stalking and Teen Dating Violence," Part II
w/ Safe Horizon & in collaboration with youth groups & community groups

Subcommittee Activities

1) Wellness Subcommittee

Chaired by Harolyn Baker and Judge Ruth Smith, this committee was created to deal with issues of health and wellness affecting women and other members of the community. Proposed future events include presentations on peri-menopause & menopause, breast cancer and women & heart disease. Our next speaker will be Dr. Shabara McDaniel.

2) Youth & Education Outreach Subcommittee

Chaired by Lisa Howard, this committee addresses ways to enhance communication,

dialogue, and interaction between members of the court system and young people in the community, whether through educational efforts, mentoring, or engaging in joint projects with schools or community groups. We have recently formed an alliance with the Pacific High School located near the Bklyn Criminal Courthouse and are planning on working together with them and other youth groups in the future.

Ms. Howard has been asked to participate in Pacific High School's first Annual Women's Symposium on Thursday, March 20, 2008. The Symposium is designed to celebrate, inform, inspire, and empower Pacific's youth. Professional speakers, including Ms. Howard, will talk about what it means to be a professional woman in today's society, specifically in the arena of, Health, Relationships, & Professional Careers.

We are also in discussions with them about co-sponsoring Part II of the "Stalking and Teen Dating Violence" presentation scheduled for May, 2008, and inviting youth activists and youth leadership to lead the discussion.

The Brooklyn Women's Gender Fairness Committee

presents

***The 10th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Program
of the Brooklyn Criminal Court***

**STALKING AND TEEN DATING VIOLENCE
(First of a Two Part Series)**

presenters:

**Joseph Samalin
Trainer, Anti-Stalking Program
Safe Horizon**

**Christian Burgess, LMSW
Director of School Programs
Safe Horizon**

**Thursday
November 15, 2007
1 - 2:15 Pm**

Room 5-4, 5th Floor

**Brooklyn Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn St.
Brooklyn, Ny 11201**

Open to the Public

**The Gender Fairness Committee
Criminal Court of the City of New York
Kings County**

in celebration of
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

presents our
2008 Wellness Series:

“NUTRITION & STRESS MANAGEMENT”

with

Ana Maria Moore

Certified Holistic Health Counselor &
Graduate of the Institute for Integrative Nutrition

Friday, March 7, 2008

1:00 - 2:15 PM

**Brooklyn Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn Street
10th Floor, Courtroom 1001
[bring your own lunch]**

RSVP: Peter Glick - Pglick@courts.state.ny.us

Gender Fairness Committee
Criminal Court of the City of New York, Kings County

in celebration of

Women's History Month

presents

**Human Trafficking: The New Sex & Labor
Trafficking Laws
and their Impact on the Courts**

**Thursday, March 27, 2008
12:45 - 2:15 PM
Brooklyn Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn Street
10th Floor, Courtroom 1002F**

Presenters: Gabriela Villareal, Project Director
Anti-Trafficking Program, Safe Horizon

Sapna Patel, Esq., Staff Attorney
Sex Workers Project, Urban Justice Center

CLE CREDIT PROVIDED
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP: PETER GLICK - pglick@courts.state.ny.us or 347.404.9432

Gender Fairness Committee

Criminal Court of the City of New York, New York County

presents

Eldercare: Understanding the Issues

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

**Live Presentation: Manhattan Criminal Court
100 Centre Street, Room 535**

**By Video Conference: Brooklyn Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn Street
Law Library**

**Queens Criminal Court
125-01 Queens Boulevard
Room G41A**

**Staten Island Criminal Court
67 Targee Street,
Room 108A**

All are welcome to attend this seminar that will provide information about some of the most common issues facing the elderly and their caregivers. The presentation will help caregivers gain a basic understanding of:

- Managing healthcare and finances;
- Living arrangement alternatives; and
- Handling the stresses of being a caregiver.

Those who attend are welcome to bring their own lunch

**RSVP to Robert West at rewest@courts.state.ny.us or
646.386.4700**



Gender Fairness Committee

**Criminal Court of the City of New York, New York County
100 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013**

llindsay@courts.state.ny.us

Gender Fairness Committee

Criminal Court of the City of New York, New York County

In conjunction with

New York Women's Bar Association

And

New York County Lawyers' Association

presents

Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery Issues

Monday, March 31, 2008

Manhattan Criminal Court

100 Centre Street, Room 535

5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Presenters: Gabriela Villareal
Anti-Trafficking Program, Safe Horizon

Sapna Patel, Esq.
Sex Workers Project, Urban Justice Center

All are welcome to attend this update on the law and current issues surrounding human trafficking and modern day slavery. The presentation is offered free of charge.

CLE credit will be provided

Light Refreshments will be offered

**RSVP to Robert West at rewest@courts.state.ny.us or
646.386.4700**



Gender Fairness Committee

Criminal Court of the City of New York, New York County
100 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013

lindsay@courts.state.ny.us

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

Hon. Bonnie Wittner

New York Supreme Court
111 Centre Street, Room 739
New York, NY 10013
646-386-4426



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

Name of the Committee Gender Fairness, New York County Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Name and Title of Chair Hon. Bonnie Wittner, 100 Centre St. New York, N.Y.

No. Members 15 No. of Meetings 5 Average Attendance 6-8 Use of Video Conferencing? No

Composition of the Committee Judges, Court Clerks, Court Attorneys, A.D.A.'S, Defense Counsel, Court Officers

Activities for Women's History Month 2008

Program entitled "International Standards and Issues Affecting Women Today presented by Kristine Herman, Associate Director of Domestic Violence and Family Court Programs at Center for Court Innovation to be held on April 3, 2008

Other Activities in the Past Year Continuing to monitor promotions of women in the uniformed and nonuniformed positions within the Court system

What are your plans for next year? Starting a mentoring program in conjunction with local law schools and colleges

Do you see operational issues in your court that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Yes, incarcerated women with babies who are not produced for court appearances because of child care issues; lack of private pen facilities for lawyers to interview female prisoners in Part F, 100 Centre St.

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts? Obtaining CLE credit for our programs, providing a proposed list of speakers who are available on selected topics



Gender Fairness Committee
New York Supreme Court – Criminal Term
Hon. Bonnie Wittner, Chairperson

~ presents ~

KRISTINE HERMAN, MSW, JD
former Gender and Human Rights Specialist
Azerbaijan

*International Standards and Issues
Affecting Women Today*

- * Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence
- * Early Marriage
- * Female Genital Mutilation

Thursday, April 3, 2008

5:30 pm until 7:30 pm

held at

100 Centre Street

Room 1604 – 16th Floor

*Please RSVP by March 27, 2008
by emailing genderfairness@aol.com*

CLE Credit is offered by the Center for Court Innovation*

*credit is transitional and non-transitional

Light Refreshments will be served



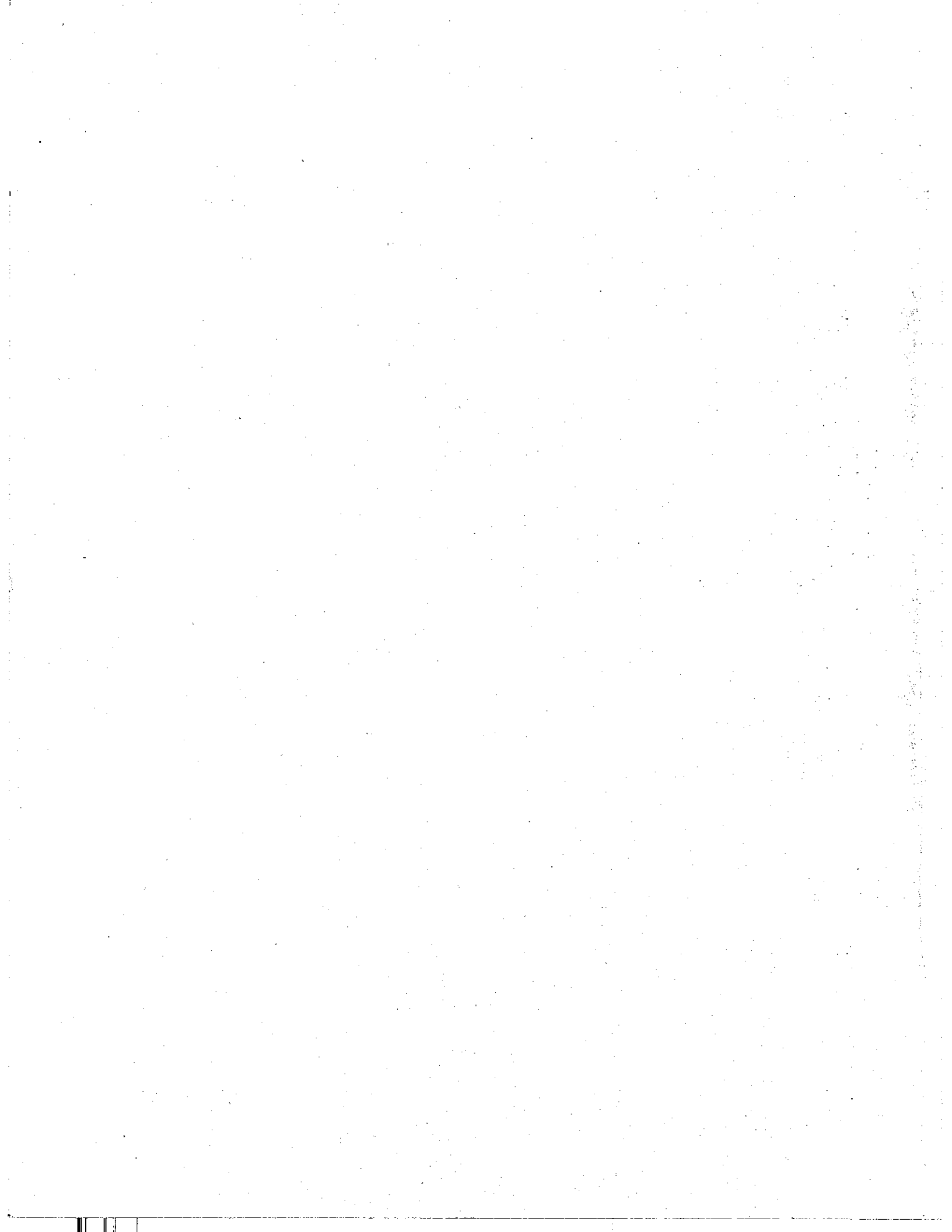
*Gender Bias Committee, New York County,
Supreme Court, Civil Term*

Hon. Deborah Kaplan

Supreme Court, New York County
111 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007
646-386-5567

Anna Rumberg, Esq.

Supreme Court, Law Department
60 Centre Street
New York, Ne York 10007
646-386-3078



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

**Name of the Committee: GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE of the
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH, NEW YORK COUNTY,
NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE and
APPELLATE TERM, FIRST DEPARTMENT**

In 1989, in accordance with an Office of Court Administrative directive that Administrative Judges establish Gender Fairness Committees within their respective courts, our Supreme Court, County Clerk's Office and Appellate Term, established an Anti-Bias Committee to promote gender fairness, tolerance, equal opportunity and cultural diversity. During the past 19 years, our New York County Anti-Bias Committee has been among the most active such committees in the State. In 2006 and 2007, the Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse and Chief Court Reporter Ross Upshaw served with great distinction as Co-chairs of our Anti-Bias Committee.

In 2007, the Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann, Administrative Judge of our court, reorganized our Anti-Bias Committee, effective January 1, 2008 by appointing two successor Committees: the Gender Fairness Committee (Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan and Anna Rumberg, Esq., Co-chairs) and the Cultural Diversity Committee: (Ms. Caren Aronowitz and Ms. Carmen Reyes-Rosenthal, Co-chairs).

Name, Address, Telephone, Fax Number, and E-mail Address of the Gender Fairness Committee Chairs:

Hon Deborah Kaplan
Supreme Court
111 Centre Street
Room 550
New York, New York 10013
646-386-5567
Fax:2 12-374-6321
dkaplan@courts.state.ny.us

Anna Rumberg, Esq.
Supreme Court-Law Department
60 Centre Street
New York, New York 10007
646-386-3078
arumberg@courts.state.ny.us

The Gender Fairness Committee has three sub-committees devoted respectively to sponsoring programs for Women's History Month (March); Take Our Children To Work Day (April); and Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October). Of course, our Gender Fairness Committee does not function in a vacuum and many activities in our court championed by Administrative Judge Silbermann, by our sister Cultural Diversity Committee, by other court committees, and by individuals, complement significantly the work of our Gender Fairness Committee. In this vein, we are especially fortunate that Administrative Judge Silbermann also serves as UCS Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Matrimonial Matters, for in that latter role she is so well known for promoting the interests of families, women and children not only in her own court but in courts throughout the State. In recognition of the importance and complexity of contested matrimonial actions, our court has committed significant resources to this sensitive inventory. Currently, our court has eight "Matrimonial Parts" (including the newly created integrated Domestic Violence Part) dedicated to this important inventory. Also, each year New York County, which of course is only one of five counties in New York City and of 62 counties in the State, addresses approximately 50% of the uncontested divorce proceedings in New York City and 25% of such proceedings in the entire State.

Judge Silbermann is committed to Continuing Legal Education and our court, in conjunction with its numerous Bar Advisory Committees, has sponsored a series of very impressive CLE programs, frequently held in our 60 Centre Street Rotunda. Judge Silbermann's annual, three-day, March Matrimonial

Seminar for Justices, Court Attorneys and Court Clerks assigned throughout the State to Matrimonial Parts, is one of the finest, if not the finest, Continuing Legal Education Program offered by the Unified Court System. This year, more than 300 Judges and court staff attended this excellent program and both the lectures offered and materials distributed were highly acclaimed.

A metaphor for Judge Silbermann's commitment to the work of our Gender Fairness Committee and to promoting the interests of women and children is the presentation to her by the New York State Bar Association's of its 2007 Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award. This prestigious Award, established by the Association in 1992 in memory of Ms. Schapiro, the first Chair of the Association's Committee on Women in the Law, is presented annually to an Association member who has made exceptional contributions to interests of women at the Bar and beyond. The presentation to Judge Silbermann of this Award was made during "State Bar Week" at the Association's House of Delegates meeting held on February 1, 2008. In recognition of Judge Silbermann having joined the ranks of the illustrious prior recipients of this Award (see attachment) our court and our Committee hosted a reception for Judge Silbermann in our Rotunda at which Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division Jonathan Lippman, Chief Administrative Judge Ann T. Pfau, and our Judges and staff congratulated Judge Silbermann upon her well deserved receipt of this Award.

A word about our June "Annual Unity In Diversity Program", now sponsored by our Cultural Diversity Committee. This wonderful program held in our Rotunda is a social event featuring the cuisine of so many of the diverse cultures within the court system and beyond. Last year, approximately 40 Bar Associations and cultural associations participated and literally hundreds of Judges, court staff, practitioners and other "constituents" of our court enjoyed this mid-day program. This program also celebrates the goals of our Committee, of our Cultural Diversity Committee and of our affiliated organizations.

Other activities of our court which complement and support the goals of our Gender Fairness Committee, include our Court Tour Program, the largest such program in the court system hosting as it does thousands of students each year together with Judges and dignitaries from all over the world (Ms. Yasmin Beydoun, Director); our large Summer Intern Program (with its own lecture series) which last summer, as in previous summers, attracted more than 100 law students, a clear majority of whom were women law students; our Newsletter, *Just Us*; and various cultural, ethnic and educational programs, sponsored by a variety of court committees and Bar groups.

Number Members: Gender Fairness Committee 20	Number of Meetings: 10
Average Attendance: Excellent	Use of Video Conferencing: No

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

The Committee includes Judges, Attorneys, Court Reporters, Court referees, Secretaries, court security staff and Clerks, all of whom are Judges and staff of our court, the County Clerk's Office and the Appellate Term, First Department.

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2007:

The Committee presented a performance by the actress Wabui Bahati in a production entitled *I AM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE*. The performance was attended by a large number of court personnel, members of the community at large and many New York City students.

Activities for Women's History Month, March 2007:

The Committee sponsored a program honoring, inter alia, Justices of the Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term who became Appellate Judges. The honorees included the Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Hon. Helen Freedman, Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler, Hon. Kristin Booth Glen, Hon. Angela Mazzarelli, Hon. Edith Miller and the late Hon. Myriam Altman. The Hon. Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the State of New York and the Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin were the featured speakers.

Activities for Women's History Month (March) planned for 2008:

On March 7, 2008, our Committee presented a program featuring former Sex Crimes Prosecutor Linda Fairstein, Esq., who is a renowned author and recognized authority on violence against women. We also honored Deputy Chief Clerk of our Jury Division Florence Troia for her over forty years of outstanding service to the Court and legal community. The Committee is currently planning its programs for the remainder of this year and is working on a program on teen domestic violence for October 2008. We are hoping to have that program certified for CLE credit.

Other Activities in the Past Year:

The Anti-Bias Committee was very active in producing, coordinating and co-sponsoring a number of interesting and thoughtful programs during the past year.

February 2007-The Committee was involved in three exciting programs commemorating Black History Month. The first featured performance by the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the second sponsored by the UCS Black History Month Committee (Ms. Patricia Parker, Chair), the Judicial Friends and the Tribune Society, featured New York Times best selling author and nationally recognized attorney Lawrence Otis Graham, Esq., and the third, the annual *Future Leader's Achievement Awards Program*, featured leading professionals in various fields who recognize the achievements in those fields by gifted and dedicated New York City Public School students.

April 2007- Take Our children To Work Day. The program included court tours, a visit to the "Courtroom of the Future", meeting with a spectrum of Justices and court staff which provided information about the many and varied employment opportunities in the court system; and a series of mock trials.

May 2007- The Committee participated in a program featuring Professor Madhulika Khandelwal, Director of the Asian American Center at CUNY Queens College. There was also a musical performance by the Chinese American Planning Council's Seniors and NYU Rhythmic Impulse, a traditional Korean Drumming Troupe.

June 2007- The Hon. Jacqueline Silbermann, Administrative Judge, hosted a reception to launch the New York Women's Bar Association's Pro Bono Matrimonial Program. The program was designed to encourage matrimonial attorneys with a minimum of five years' experience to volunteer to represent pro bono indigent litigants in contested matrimonial cases. The Committee was also supported the Manhattan Pride Event featuring as speakers, the Hon. Ann Pfau, Chief Administrative Judge for the State of New York, the Hon. Carmen Ciparick, the Hon. Marcy Kahn, Senator Tom Duane and Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell. The program included remarks by Nancy Goldstein and Joan Hilty, who spoke on "marriage". Finally the Committee participated in the 4th Annual *Celebrating Unity in Diversity Program* which, as mentioned above, was supported by over forty Bar groups and organizations.

September 2007- The Committee offered a program on conflict resolution entitled *Dealing with Differences Successfully-Why Style Matters*. Bridget M. Regan, Director of the Simon Weisenthal New York Tolerance Center was the keynote speaker.

October 2007- Domestic Violence Program (discussed above). The Committee participated in a program celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The celebration recognized Manuel Romero, Esq. and Luis Carrero, Court Analyst in our court. The featured speaker was the Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick and the Latin Fever Dance Studio and Mambo Negro provided entertainment.

Plans for Next Year:

The Committee will continue to promote gender fairness, domestic violence awareness, tolerance, equal opportunity and cultural diversity.

What are your committee's most important strengths:

Our Committee's greatest strength is the intelligence, high energy and commitment of its members, as well as the support of our local administration, all of which are reflected in the outstanding programs which have been sponsored by the Committee and its affiliated committees, groups and individuals.

What are your committee's biggest impediments?

Our court is among the busiest in the State. Thus, there is always a great deal of competition for resources and attention. It is in this very competitive environment that we seek to have our message heard.

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

Although we assumed leadership of the Committee in 2008, we are pleased to continue the very impressive tradition of our court, generally, and the 19 years of prior service of our Anti-Bias Committee, specifically, in promoting gender fairness, tolerance, equal opportunity, and cultural diversity. In going forward, we know we have the support of our Administrative Judge, our Justices, our court personnel (including the Office of the County Clerk), which support is so important to the success of our Committee.

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

Of course, we are always very interested in the work of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts and we appreciate that Committee's continuing support.

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

We would appreciate receiving notice in advance of their programs.

Please return this form by **March 17, 2008**, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel
NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

25 Beaver Street, Room 878, New York, NY 10004
212-428-2793 (Fax) Igoodman@Courts.state.ny.us

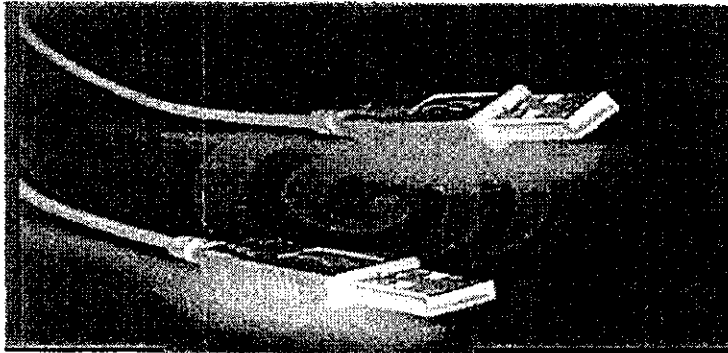
We attach hereto flyers and materials (copies of *Just Us* and a National Center for State Courts Survey completed by our Committee in March 2007) representative of the many programs sponsored by our Anti-Bias Committee, its successors, our Gender Fairness Committee and our Cultural Diversity Committee, and affiliated committees, all of which programs are in keeping with the goal of the Gender Fairness Committee to promote gender fairness, tolerance, equal opportunity and cultural diversity.

jwm doc.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
Wednesday, October 24, 2007
Supreme Court, Civil Branch - 60 Centre Street, New York City
12:45 p.m. - Central Jury Room 452

TAKE A STAND



~PULL THE PLUG ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE~
(Operators are Waiting For YOUR Call)
Dial 311 or the Domestic Violence HOTLINE - (800) 621-4673

Welcoming Remarks

Hon. Jacqueline Silbermann
Adm. Judge of Supreme Court/Civil Branch

Introduction of Speakers

Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse
Co-Chair, Anti Bias Committee

Guest Performance - "I Am Domestic Violence"

Wambui Bahati, Actress

Closing Remarks

Ross Upshaw, Co-Chair, Anti Bias Committee

Sponsored By

The Anti Bias Committee, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County;
Domestic Violence Subcommittee: Robin King (Co-Chair), Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse,
Ross Upshaw, Mary Jenkins, Mary Massa, Muhammad Small;
and
The New York County Clerk's Office

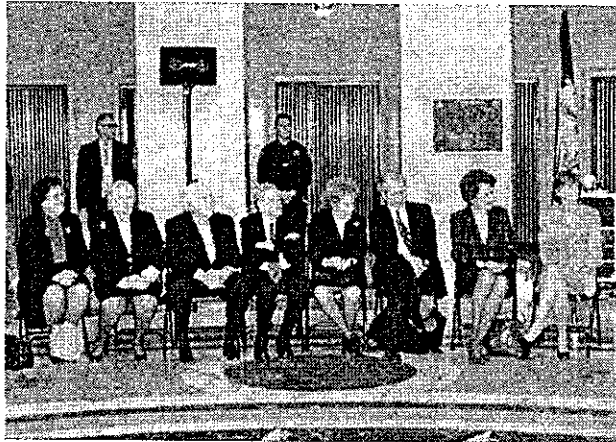
Contributions By

Safe Horizons and The Grand Hyatt-New York

Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann was the 2008 recipient of The NYS Bar Association's 2008 Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award. Established in 1992 in memory of Ruth G. Schapiro, the first Chair of the Association's Women in the Law Committee, the Award honors a female or male member of the Association who has made a noteworthy contribution to addressing the concerns and needs of women in the legal profession and beyond. A reception for Justice Silbermann was held in the Rotunda at 60 Centre St.

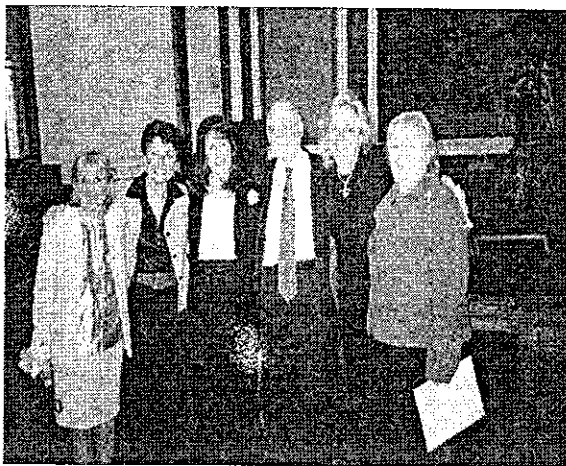


Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann & Hon. Judith S. Kaye



Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann, Hon. Norman Goodman, Hon. Stanley Sklar Hon. Betty Weinberg-Ellerin, Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Hon. Judith S. Kaye and Hon. Ann T. Pfau came to congratulate Judge Silbermann.

Women's History Month Program: "A Dialogue with Linda Fairstein, Esq. The Nation's Foremost Authority on Violence Against Women"



Florence Troia, Anna Rumberg, Hon. Deborah Kaplan Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse, Linda Fairstein, Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann

Florence Troia (received the Distinguished Service Award) & Linda Fairstein guest speaker



*In Celebration of
Women's History Month*

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

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

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

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

Honorees

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

Light Refreshments will be served

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

Women's History Month

*“A Dialogue with Linda Fairstein, Esq.
The Nation's Foremost Authority on
Violence Against Women”*

*Friday, March 7, 2008
New York State Supreme Court, Civil Branch
60 Centre Street, Room 300, 12:15 p.m.*

Distinguished Service Award Presented to

Florence Troia

Deputy Chief Clerk, New York County Clerk's Office

Light Refreshments Will Be Served

Sponsored by:

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

Hon. Deborah Kaplan & Anna Rumberg, Esq. Co-Chairs

Program Subcommittee, Co-Chairs

P. J. Garone & Cecily Hernandez

The New York County Clerk's Office

Hon. Norman Goodman, County Clerk

Florence Troia

New York County Clerk, Jury Division

Florence Troia began her illustrious career in the New York County Clerk's Office in July 1960, having then already had 7 years of public service among the New York City Department of Health, New York State Workers' Compensation Board and the New York State Motor Vehicle Bureau. Accordingly, we not only celebrate Florence's 48 years of service in our County Clerk's Office, but also her remarkable 55 years of distinguished, cumulative public service.



During most of her career in the County Clerk's Office, Florence served in the Jury Division, rising through the ranks from graded Clerk to Senior Court Analyst and her present position of Deputy Chief Clerk of the Jury Division. Working with County Clerk, Hon. Norman Goodman, Deputy County Clerk Pearl Hampton, and Chief Clerk Vincent Homenick, Florence has been an important, creative contributor to the jury service reforms, championed by Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, and implemented so successfully in New York County. Florence has received countless commendations from members of the public she has so conscientiously counseled and otherwise assisted in regard to jury service obligations. Speaking with Florence for only a moment, one realizes how truly committed she is to serving the public, how much she enjoys helping people and how accomplished she is in fulfilling her important responsibilities. For a decade Florence served as the New York County Grand Jury Clerk, a very challenging assignment requiring the greatest diplomacy and tact because of the nature and significantly greater length of Grand Jury service. During Florence's long tenure in the Jury Division, she has worked with countless Judges, attorneys and jurors, contributing greatly to the cause of justice in New York County and beyond.



Florence was born and raised on Centre Street and her roots are deep in our community. She contemplated a career in fashion and her talent and aptitude in that field are reflected in her exquisite taste and superb color sense. Florence has a serious interest in the fine arts and especially enjoys attending auctions. She is a fine athlete and an accomplished equestrian, riding regularly for many years. She has attended many horse shows and flower shows and possesses a true love of flowers.

In 1960, when Florence began her career at "60 Centre Street", the Hon. James McGurrin was the New York County Clerk. During the many years since, Florence has worked closely with generations of Judges and court staff, including - in addition to those mentioned above - Administrative Judge Xavier C. Riccobono (ret.); the late Justice Irving Kirschenbaum; the late Hyman Gamso, former Deputy Clerk and former Clerk of the Appellate Division, First Department; Chief Deputy County Clerk James Rossetti; Secretary to County Clerk, Linda Arnone; and the previous recipient of this Award, the indomitable Esther Bandel.



Florence had numerous opportunities to work with Linda Fairstein, Esq., who we also honor today, when Linda was making her way in the New York County District Attorney's Office, rising to great prominence in that Office. It is a particular pleasure to honor them together.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
✧PAST -VS- PRESENT ACHIEVEMENTS✧
Supreme Court, Civil Branch - 60 Centre Street, New York City
Tuesday, March 25, 2008
1:00 p.m. - Rotunda

R U B O Y
(THE STORY OF RUBY BRIDGES)
A PRODUCTION BY C3



Welcoming Remarks

Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann
Adm. Judge, Supreme Court, Civil Branch

OPENING REMARKS

Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse
Committee Chair

INTRODUCTION OF C3

Jamaal Bernard, Youth Pastor
Christian Cultural Center

Guest Performance By

C3

Closing Remarks

Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse

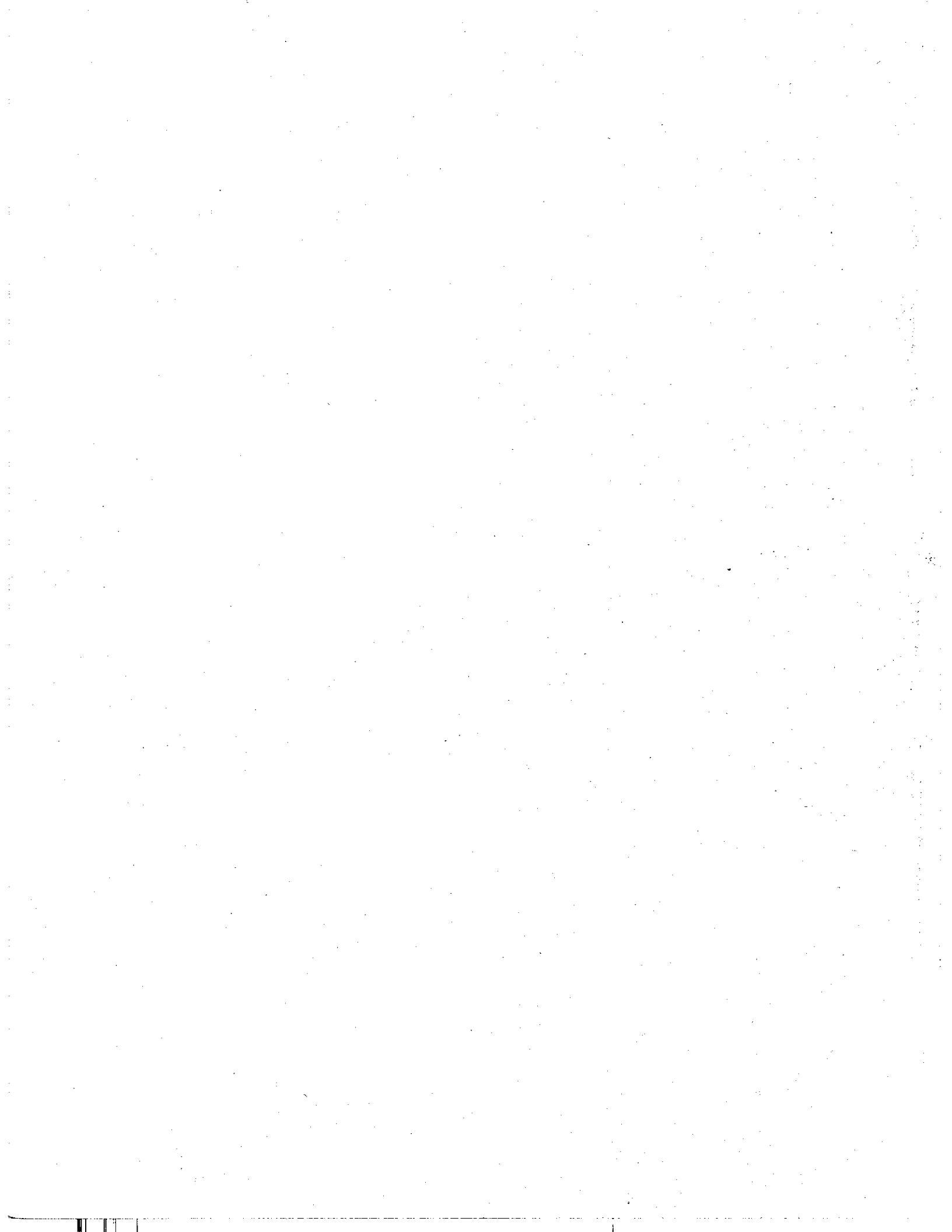
Sponsored By

Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County
Committee: Hon. John E.H. Stackhouse (Chair), Robin King (Co-Chair)
Committee Members: Mary Jenkins and Irene Kallan
&
The New York County Clerk's Office

Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District

Hon. Richard Lee Price

Supreme Court Justice
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10451
718-590-3590



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

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

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

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

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

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007:

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007: *a) National Domestic Violence Awareness Month - "Work Place Education Day" (October 24, 2007: "Our Elderly...Another Face of Domestic Violence."* The event was co-sponsored by: Association of Black Women Attorneys, Black Bar Association of Bronx County, Bronx County Bar Association, Bronx Borough President, Bronx County Clerk, Bronx Women's Bar Association, Columbia Society Inc., Gender Fairness Committee of Bronx Family Court, Hispanic Court Officers' Society, Law-Related Education Committee, New York County Lawyers' Association, 161st Street Merchants Association, Bronx Civil Court, Bronx Criminal Court, Bronx Family Court, Bronx Surrogate's Court, Tribune Society, Theresa's Haven, Thorpe Family Residence. Approximately 125 people attended this program. We had three presenters. Ellen Kolodney - Elder Abuse Coordinator from the Bronx County District Attorney's Office made a presentation concerning the function of her office in dealing with elder abuse and recognizing those signs of the issue as did Arlene Markarian - Chief, Elder Abuse Unit, Kings County D.A.'s Office, Domestic Violence Bureau and Kristen Jones - Detective, N.Y.P.D. Bronx County District Attorney's Office Squad. The feedback on the program, was extremely favorable and informational.

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

See flyer annexed hereto.

Activities for Women's History Month 2007:

Women's History Month Program March 22, 2007

Honorees/Women of Achievement:

-Nieca Goldberg, M.D., Cardiologist

-Joyce Y. Hartsfield, Esq., President, The Bronx County Bar Association

-Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

"ComMENDable," Persons Award

-Dr. Richard Izquierdo, Family Practitioner

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

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

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

See flyer annexed hereto.

Women's History Month Program 2008: Proposed date April 3, 2008.

Other Activities in the Past Year:

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

Lunch Programs:

-GENDER FAIRNESS ON FILM SERIES: Our third season kicked off on December 5, 2007 with the Academy Award nominated film, God Sleeps in Rwanda which captures the spirit of five courageous women as they rebuild their lives, redefine women's roles in Rwandan society, and bring hope to a wounded nation. One of our Court Interpreters led the discussion which included our largest number of attendees. We are looking forward to presenting three more films such as The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till, Lifting the Veil, and My Cousin Vinny. at our new courthouse The Bronx County Hall of Justice. As always each film presentation is led by a moderator and in some cases includes a guest speaker, followed by audience discussion.

What are your plans for next year?

Our *tentative plans for next year* include: The Women's History Month Program, Domestic Violence Programs, Gender Fairness on Film Series, Meet the Author, a fashion show for those women trying to get back into the workforce and CLE programs.

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

* OCA has not given the maternity leave issue the importance it merits. While other countries and United States companies prioritize family values, such as maternity leave, their goal is that it translates into better and more productive employees. The message from OCA's appears to be contrary to this belief.

*While New York City is still the melting pot of the world our Court Interpreters are not paid according to the level of work they produce. Their salary scale is far below the Court Interpreters of our neighboring states, Federal Court, plus the U. N. While OCA Court Reporters RECORD every word at grade scale 24, Court Interpreters who are responsible for TRANSLATING every word are merely at Grade scale 18. This seems to be somewhat uneven.

*There appears to be a limited amount of women in supervisory positions as well as those being promoted to those positions.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

It had been brought to our attention by one of our attorney committee members that there might be a discriminatory issue relating to pretrial release recommendations relating to women defendants. It was noted that stay-at-home female caretakers were not being given credit as women who work and women who were in school. We contacted and met with the Criminal Justice Agency in order to encourage them to update that portion of their standard form. They have been working on this issue so that they might eventually amend their form.

Justice Price has brought this issue to the attention of the Judges on the Criminal Side to be aware of this situation.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court? N/A

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

As we stated in last year's report the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts provides ideas and program suggestions for our review and implementation. The recognition that each committee receives is a strong part of what we receive from the statewide Judicial committee. As in past years we have an urgent need for monetary contributions in order to continue putting on our present programs and present additional innovative programs.

Please return this form by March 17, 2008, to:

Jill Laurie Goodman Counsel, NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts.
25 Beaver St., Rm. 878, New York, N.Y. 10004, 212-428-2793 (Fax) lgoodman@courts.state.ny.us

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York



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

In recognition of

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
Chair

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tania Antero
Josephine M. Bastone
Sherry Callwood
Steven B. Clark
Helen Corporan
Maria Cortese
Pat Cupples
Hon. Tandra Dawson
Donna Dodds
Hon. Marian Doherty
Hon. Laura Douglas
Darlene Dove
Monica Dula
Sheila Feinerman
Hon. Anita Florio
Jaci Flug
Alice Fontier
Raymond Franklin
Earnestine Glover
Celestie Guzman
Hon. Wilma Guzman
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn
Saundra Jefferson
Esther Kelly
Capt. Holly Kenn
Hon. Sallie Manzanet
Hon. La Tia W. Martin
Susan McPartland
Deidra Moore
John E. Murray
Hon. Barbara Newman
Bernadette O'Rourke
Tracy Pardo
Sandra Prowley
Charlene Pulakos
Kevin J. Quaranta
Maria Rivero
Hon. Gayle P. Roberts
Anthony Robinson
Major Jose Rodriguez
Sharon T. Rosenthal
Hon. Norma Ruiz
Karen Saab-Dominguez
Emily Sanchez
Bonnie Schnapper
Hon. Alison Y. Tuit
Ann Wilson

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
presents its annual program for

"WORKPLACE EDUCATION DAY"

**"OUR ELDERLY...
ANOTHER FACE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE"**

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

12:30 to 2:00 P.M.

Courtroom 711

PRESENTERS

*** KRISTEN JONES - DETECTIVE, N.Y.P.D.
BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SQUAD**

*** ELLEN KOLODNEY - ELDER ABUSE COORDINATOR
BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

*** ARLENE MARKARIAN - CHIEF, ELDER ABUSE UNIT
KINGS COUNTY D.A.'S OFFICE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BUREAU**

Lunch Will Be Served

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to:
Karen Saab-Dominguez @ 718-590-8255, Josephine M. Bastone @ 718-590-3758
Bonnie Schnapper @ 718-590-3590

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York



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

851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10451

In recognition of

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
Chair

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

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
presents its annual program for

"Workplace Education Day"

Wednesday, October 24, 2007
12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
Courtroom 711

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tania Antero
Josephine M. Bastone
Sherry Callwood
Steven B. Clark
Helen Corporan
Maria Cortese
Pat Cupples
Hon. Tandra Dawson
Donna Dodds
Hon. Marian Doherty
Hon. Laura Douglas
Darlene Dove
Monica Dula
Sheila Feinerman
Hon. Anita Florio
Jaci Flug
Alice Fontier
Raymond Franklin
Earnestine Glover
Celeste Guzman
Hon. Wilma Guzman
Hon. Arlene H. Hahn
Saundra Jefferson
Esther Kelly
Capt. Holly Kenn
Hon. Sallie Manzanet
Hon. La Tia W. Martin
Susan McPartland
Deidra Moore
John E. Murray
Hon. Barbara Newman
Bernadette O'Rourke
Tracy Pardo
Sandra Prowley
Charlene Pulakos
Kevin J. Quaranta
Maria Rivero
Hon. Gayle P. Roberts
Anthony Robinson
Major Jose Rodriguez
Sharon T. Rosenthal
Hon. Norma Ruiz
Karen Saab-Dominguez
Emily Sanchez
Bonnie Schnapper
Hon. Alison V. Tuitt
Ann Wilson

Opening:.....KAREN SAAB-DOMINGUEZ
Assistant District Attorney
Bronx County District Attorney's Office

Welcome & Opening Remarks:.....HON. JOHN P. COLLINS
HON. BARRY SALMAN
Administrative Judges

"Our Elderly...Another Face of Domestic Violence"

Moderator:.....EMILY SANCHEZ

Film:....."MARY..."(Excerpt)

Presenters:
*ELLEN KOLODNEY - ELDER ABUSE COORDINATOR
BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*ARLENE MARKARIAN - CHIEF, ELDER ABUSE UNIT
KINGS COUNTY D.A.'S OFFICE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BUREAU

* KRISTEN JONES - DETECTIVE, N.Y.P.D.
BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SQUAD

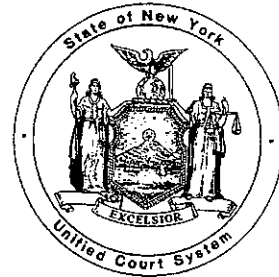
Closing Remarks.....HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, J.S.C.
Chair, Gender Fairness Committee

Program Co-Sponsors

*Association of Black Women Attorneys *Black Bar Association of Bronx County
* Bronx County Bar Association *Bronx Borough President
*Bronx County Clerk *Bronx Women's Bar Association
*Columbia Society, Inc. *Gender Fairness Committee of Bronx Family Court
*Law-Related Education Committee, New York County Lawyers' Association
*161st Street Merchants Association *Tribune Society
*Theresa's Haven *Thorpe Family Residence
*Bronx Civil Court *Bronx Criminal Court *Bronx Family Court *Bronx Surrogate's Court

**THE BRONX COUNTY
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

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



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

Women's History Month

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008
12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.
VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL
BRONX SUPREME COURT

Women of Achievement

Com-MEN-dable Persons

Evolve Award*

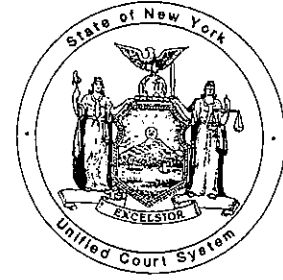
"Women Of Distinction"

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

*outstanding women students

**THE BRONX COUNTY
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

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



- presents the annual program for -

Women's History Month

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007
12:30 TO 2:30 P.M.
VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT

Women of Achievement

NIECA GOLDBERG, M.D.
Cardiologist

JOYCE Y. HARTSFIELD, ESQ.
President, The Bronx County Bar Association

HON. JUDY HARRIS KLUGER
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

Com-MEN-dable Person

DR. RICHARD IZQUIERDO
Family Practitioner

&

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

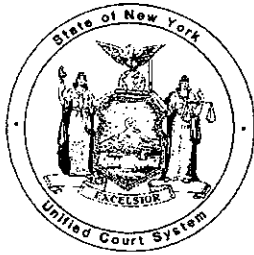
"E V O L V E" Students' Award

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

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

APPROVED

TRACY PARDO
CHIEF CLERK



THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

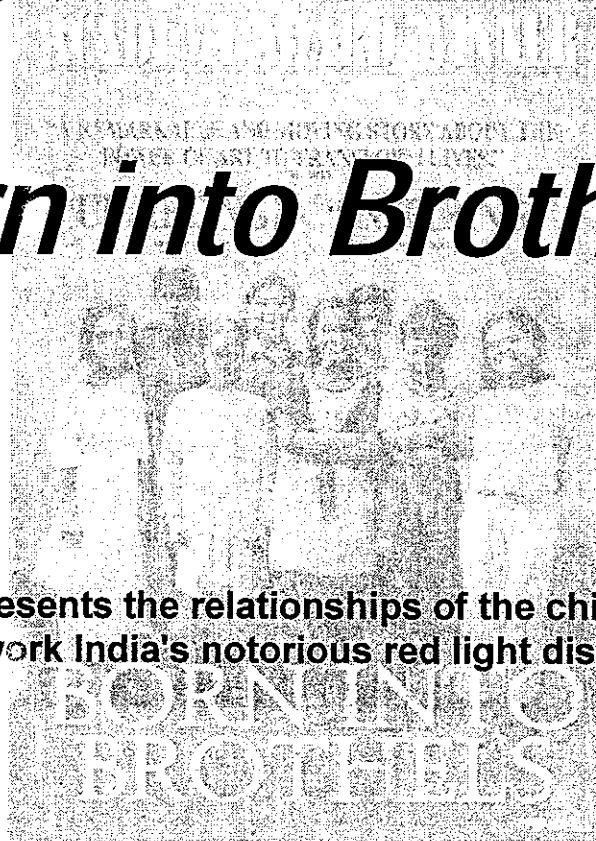
HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS
HON. BARRY SALMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

PROUDLY PRESENTS

The Gender Fairness on Film Series

Born into Brothels



A chronicle which presents the relationships of the children of prostitutes who work India's notorious red light district.

Guest Speaker: A.D.A. Karen Saab-Dominguez*

Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2007
Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Place: Bronx Supreme Court, Courtroom 621

***Following the screening there will be a discussion**

(Bring your Lunch)

Program is open to the public

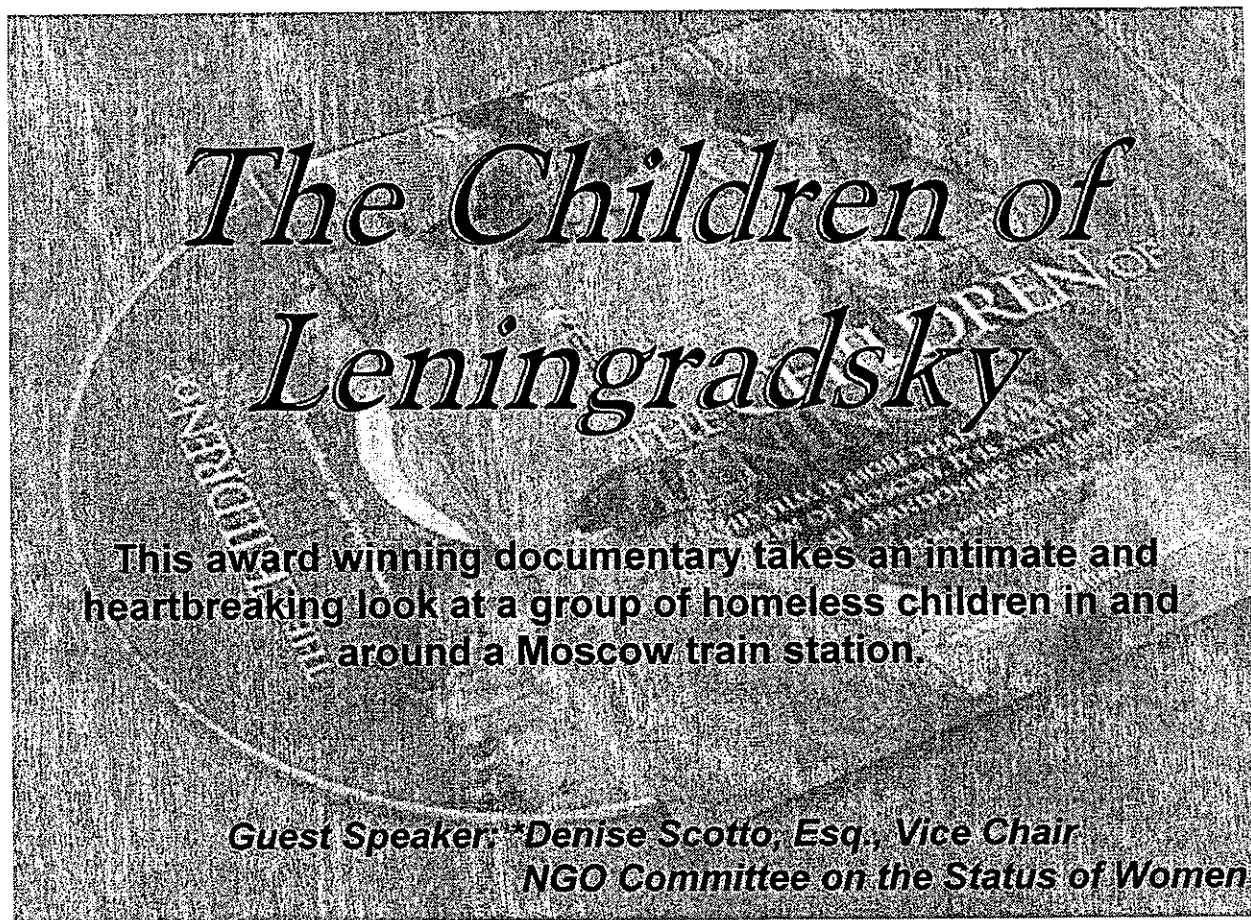
THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS
HON. BARRY SALMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

PROUDLY PRESENTS

The Gender Fairness on Film Series



***Following the screening there will be a discussion.**

Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2007
Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Place: Bronx Supreme Court, Courtroom 621

Please bring your lunch

This program is open to the public

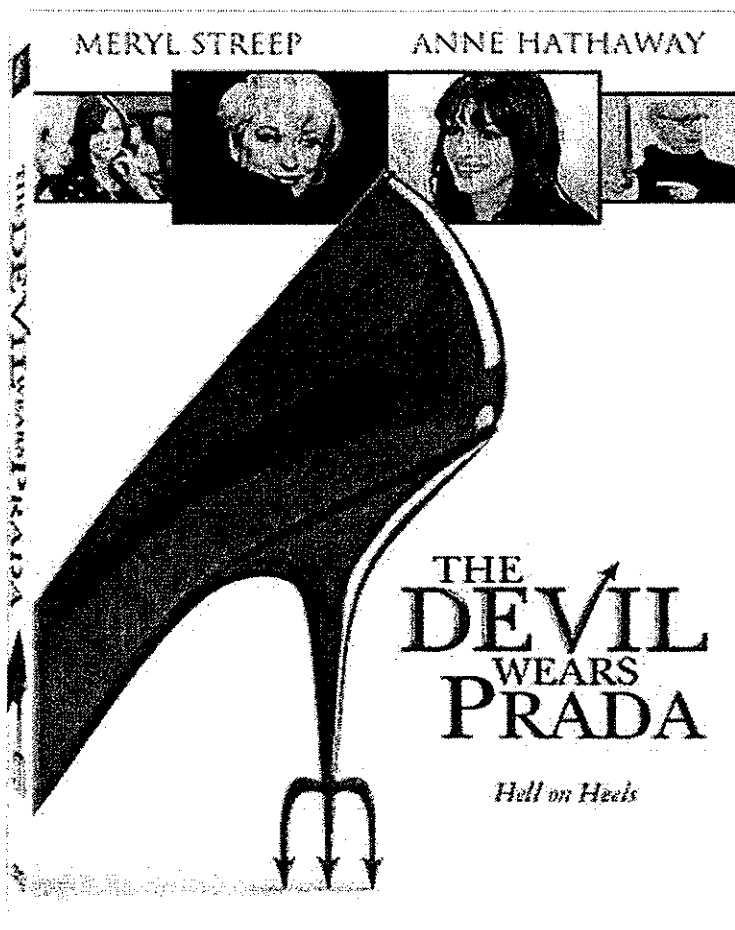
THE BRONX COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE, CHAIR

HON. JOHN P. COLLINS
HON. BARRY SALMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

PROUDLY PRESENTS

The Gender Fairness on Film Series



Date: Wednesday, May 9, 2007 (Part I)
Thursday, May 10, 2007 (Part II)
Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Place: Bronx Supreme Court
Courtroom 621

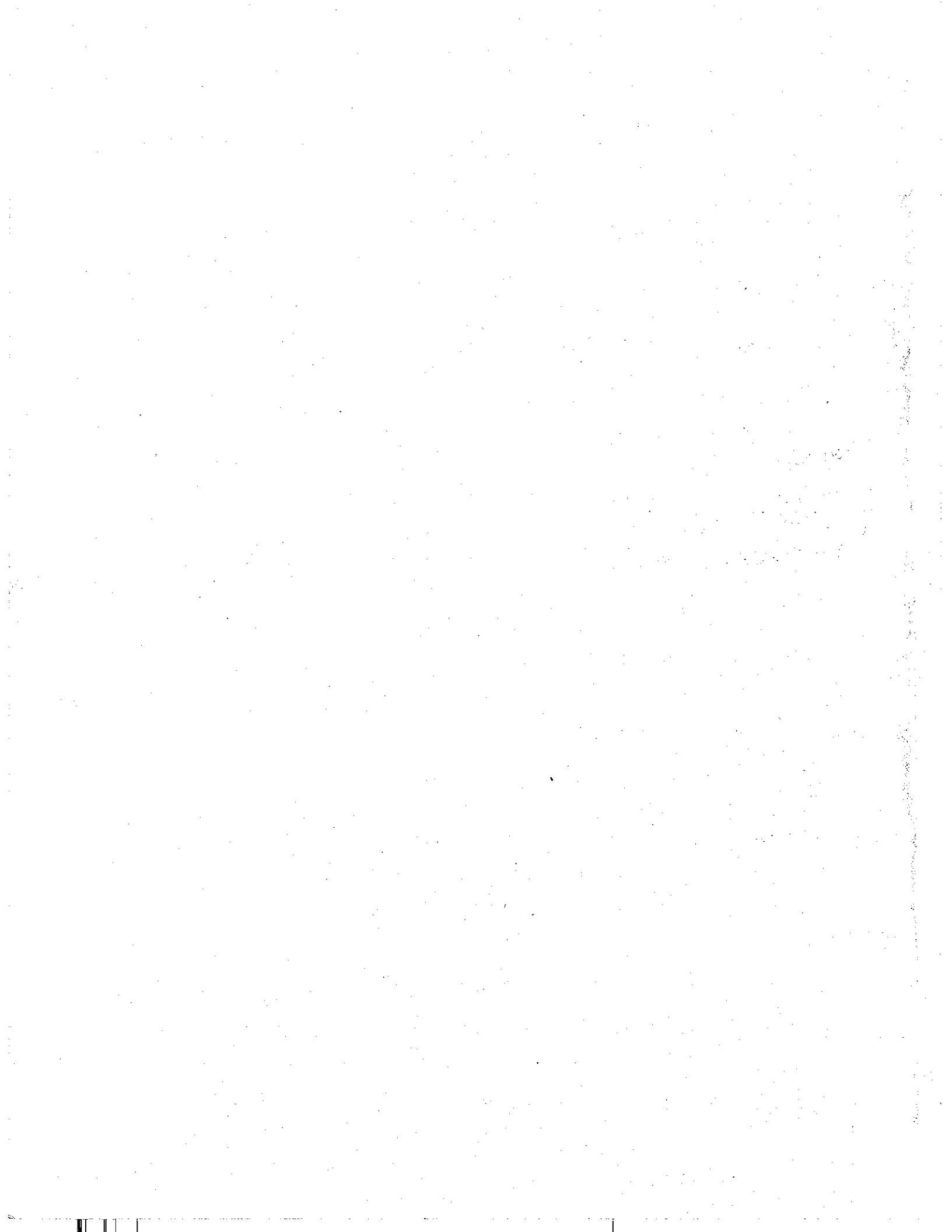
Please bring your lunch

This program is open to the public

Queens County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Sheri S. Roman

Justice, Supreme Court
125-01 Queens Blvd.
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
718-520-3501



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

Name of the Committee: New York State Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee

Name and Title of Chair

Hon. Sheri S. Roman, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York

No. Members 17 No. of Meetings 4 Average Attendance 8 Use of Video Conferencing? no

Composition of the Committee (judges, administrators, advocates, etc .) Judges, Law Secretaries,

Court Officers, Secretaries, Clerks, Court Reporter, Private Attorney (see attachment A)

(For reports on activities, please include co-sponsors, size of the attendance, and copies of any press.)

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007: (see attachment B)

- * A reference table with resource materials was displayed in each of the three Queens Supreme Courthouses throughout the month of October. The pamphlets contained information and statistical data on domestic violence. We tried to collect a variety of pamphlets in different languages to reflect our diverse borough.

- * On October 17, 2007, we hosted a complimentary lunchtime program at the Kew Gardens Courthouse. The guest speakers for the session, entitled "*The New Mental Health Court: Principles, Practice and Procedure*" were:
Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch, Presiding Justice, Queens County Mental Health Court and Douglas Knight, Office of Alternative Sentencing, Queens County District Attorney's Office. Continuing Legal Education credit (Area of Professional Practice: 1 credit hour Transitional and Non-transitional) was offered for attorneys. We also provided transportation to and from each of the other courthouses, making it available to all Queens courthouse employees.

- * We hosted another program promoting Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, at the Jamaica Courthouse. The guest speaker for the session entitled "The Impact of Culture in Domestic Violence Cases" was: Sujata Warriar, Ph.D., Director of the New York City Program of the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Our audiences include attorneys employed in the court system as well as private attorneys, legal aid and assistant district attorneys, courthouse employees, including staff from judges' chambers, court officers, court reporters, court interpreters, court clerks, cashiers, and members of the general public.

Again, we provided transportation to and from our Queens Courthouses.

Activities for Women's History Month 2008 (See attachment C)

Two complimentary luncheon programs will be held in conjunction with National Women's History Month:

- * The first program will take place on March 26, 2008 at 1:00 PM in the boardroom of the Jamaica Courthouse. The program will be divided into two segments. One segment will consist of certificates and cash awards being given to the winners of our second annual High School Writing Competition. The \$200.00 prize money has been donated by the Court Attorney's Association of the City of New York.

The essay topics this year include:

"What Significant Events Occurred in the United States since 1920 to Enable a Woman to Run for President Today?"

Or

"In What Ways Did Women's Efforts and Struggles in the past Enable a Woman to Run for President Today?"

Or

"Why Should Women Exercise Their Right to Vote?"

The second portion of the March 26th program will consist of a presentation by Queens Deputy Borough President who will be asked to give a brief historical perspective of women in politics. Also, we plan to honor several women in our own courthouse community who have served in the courthouse for about three decades.

- * The second program for Women's History Month is scheduled for April 9, 2008 at 1:00 PM in the Kew Gardens Boardroom. Our guest speaker will be Professor Elaine Chiu of St. John's University School of Law. Her topic will be *"A Public Approach to Domestic Violence in the Information Age."* Professor Chiu will discuss proposed legislation which will allow public access to criminal history databases and order of protection databases. We have submitted an application for CLE credit for this program and hope to get approval prior to the date of the presentation. We will seek to have flyers for this program distributed through the various Queens County Bar Associations.]

Other Activities in the Past Year

Women's History Month 2007: Two luncheon programs were held. (See attachment D)

- * On Tuesday, March 27, 2007, from 1:00-2:00PM at the Kew Gardens Courthouse, a luncheon program with guest speaker Elaine Chiu, Esq., Associate Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law was held. The topic, *"The Marital Exception to Sexual Abuse Laws in New York and Other Jurisdictions"* 1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit was given to attorneys upon request.

- * We also sponsored a High School Writing Competition in recognition of Women's History Month. Students wrote a 500 word essay on the topic, "*An important woman's rights issue that changed the law and improved the lives of women.*" Four first place winners each received a cash prize of \$50.00 (that was donated by the Court Attorney's Union), had their winning essay or poem published in the Queens County Bar Association Bar Bulletin, and was invited to sit on the bench with a Supreme Court Justice and observe courtroom proceedings.

Each winner was presented with an Award Certificate at the Women's History program May 30th in the Supreme Court. Students were honored On May 30, 2007 at our second luncheon program for Women's History Month. Professor Margaret Valentine Turano of St. John's University School of Law was the keynote speaker. The topic, Great Writers: How Do They Do That? was well received

- * *2007 Take Our Daughter and Sons to Work Days* (See attachment E)
In April we coordinated the 2-day activity for "Take Our Daughters to Work /Take Our Sons to Work programs. Youngsters were invited to partake in a continental breakfast as they listened to court representatives discuss careers in the courts. They were then taken on building tour, after which they participated in a mock trial competition
- * *2007 Dress for Success Women's Clothing Drive* (See attachment F)
A three-day Womens Clothing Drive with the Queens County Women's Bar Association was held November 26, 2007 through November 29, 2007. Clothing was collected for donation to the DRESS FOR SUCCESS organization, Queens, NY.

What are your plans for next year?

Next year we plan to address the issue of finding sources of funding for minimal awards for students. We plan to offer addition Continuing Legal Education programs for October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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

Again in 2007, flyers for events concerning women's issues were torn from the walls and defaced, while other notices remained intact.

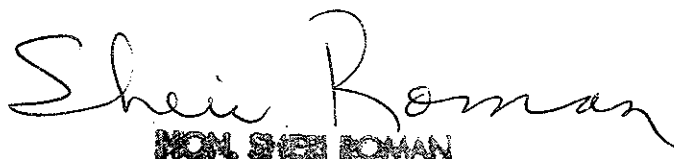
Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

Review sensitivity training provided at courts across the state. Evaluate when training occurred, what it consisted of, and the perceived effectiveness.

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court?

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

Again, review of sensitivity training provided at courts across the state. Evaluate when training occurred, what it consisted of, and the perceived effectiveness.


SHEIL ROMAN

Please return this form by **March 17, 2008**, to:

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

Attachment A



NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
Hon. Sheri S. Roman, Chairperson

2007-2008 Committee Members

SUSAN BEBERFALL, ESQ.	Associate Court Attorney
MAUREEN CRESCIMANNO	Secretary to Judge
JAMES DOLLIN, ESQ.	Principal Law Clerk to Judge
HON. PHYLLIS ORLIKOFF FLUG	Supreme Court Justice
LT. LYNNE FRANZONE	Lietutenant, Security Operations
DELORES HAYNES	Secretary to Judge
SCO SGT. DIXON KIM	Sergeant, Security Operations
DENNIS LEBWOHL, ESQ.	Principal Law Clerk to Judge
LT. THOMAS McELLIGOTT	Lietutenant, Security Operations
M .J. MEZZINA, ESQ.	Associate Court Attorney
LESLIE NIZIN, ESQ.	Attorney, Private Practice
O. RUSS RODRIGUEZ	Court Clerk Specialist
HON. SHERI S. ROMAN	Supreme Court Justice, Committee Chair
HON. PATRICIA SATTERFIELD	Supreme Court Justice
THERESA SILKIE	Principal Court Reporter
KATHLEEN S. WARD, ESQ.	Principal Law Clerk to Judge
THERESA WILSON	Secretary to Judge



QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT

ATTACHMENT B



NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
Domestic Violence Month Program:

**“The New Mental Health Court:
Principles, Practice and Procedure”**

Wednesday, October 17, 2007 1:00-2:00 PM

8th Floor Conference Room (Room 832), Kew Gardens Courthouse, 125-01 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Guest Speakers:

Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch

Presiding Justice, Queens County Mental Health Court

Rosalind Muir

Coordinator, Queens County Mental Health Court

Douglas Knight

Office of Alternative Sentencing, Queens County District Attorney's Office

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE-from Jamaica Courthouse

CLE CREDIT:

1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit will be offered for this session
(transitional & non-transitional appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys).

The cost of this program is \$5.00 to cover lunch costs.

FREE for those who do not wish CLE Credit

Application for accreditation of this program is currently pending.

R.S.V.P. NECESSARY By Monday, October 15, 2007

For info. & TO REGISTER, CALL (718) 298-1441 (Chambers of Hon. Sheri S. Roman)

**NYS SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

125-01 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, New York 11415

CHAIRPERSON


Hon. Sheri S. Roman

MEMBERS

Susan Beberfall, Esq.
Maureen Crescimanno
James A. Dollin, Esq.
Hon. Phyllis Orlikoff Flug
Lt. Lynne Franzone
Delores Haynes
Sgt. Dixon Kim
Dennis Lebwohl, Esq.
Lt. Tom McElligott
M. J. Mezzina, Esq.
SCO Denise Mikaelian
Leslie Nizin, Esq.
O. Russ Rodriguez
Hon. Patricia Satterfield
Theresa Silkie
Kathleen S. Ward, Esq.
Theresa Wilson

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Queens County
Gender Fairness Committee

FROM: Honorable Sheri S. Roman, Chairperson 
Queens County Supreme Court
Gender Fairness Committee

DATE: March 7, 2008

RE: Women's History Month Programs

To support our statewide court initiatives to promote Women's History Month, our committee will host two luncheon programs. The first program will be held on **Wednesday, March 26, 2008** at the **Jamaica Courthouse 5th floor conference room**, with guest speaker Karen Kosłowitz, Queens Deputy Borough President, recognizing women with long term service to our courts. At this session we will also award a certificate and \$50 cash prize (generously donated by the NY City Court Attorneys Assn.) to each of the four high school student finalists in our 2008 GFC Essay Contest.

Professor Elaine Chiu, Esq., Associate Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law, will be our guest speaker at the second program, to be held **April 9, 2008 at the Kew Gardens Courthouse, 8th floor conference room**. The topic is, "Domestic Violence in the Information Age." Continuing Legal Education credit will be available (1 credit) for this program session (pending CLE Board approval). There will be a \$5.00 fee for any attorney seeking C.L.E. credit. The session is free for those who do not wish C.L.E. credit.

Based on the number of attendees from previous programs, we approximate 50 attendees at each presentation and, as usual, plan to provide a light luncheon buffet. Also, we have requested transportation arrangements to be made, if possible, to and from our Queens Courthouses.

Please make every effort to attend one or both of these programs, and send your response to THWilson at (718) 298-1441 or thwilson@courts.state.ny.us

SSR:tw
enc.

The New York State Supreme Court
Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
In recognition of
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
present:

* * * * *

KAREN KOSLOWITZ,

Deputy Borough President

Honors

**Women with Long Term Service to
Queens Supreme Court**

* * * * *

plus...

*Students Making History:
Winners of the 2008
Queens High School Essay Contest*

Wednesday March 26, 2008

1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.

Queens County Courthouse
88-11 Sutphin Boulevard , Jamaica , New York 11435
5th floor conference room

FREE - LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!

TRANSPORTATION: available from Kew Gardens & LIC Courthouses

R.S.V.P. Required by MARCH 24TH

Call (718) 298-1441

(Justice Sheri Roman's chambers)

all are welcome !!!

The NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring a High School Writing Competition in recognition of Women's History Month. Four first place winners will each receive a cash prize of \$50.00, have their winning piece published in the Queens County Bar Association Bar Bulletin or at least one official court newsletter, and will be invited to sit on the bench with a Supreme Court Justice and observe courtroom proceedings. Each winner will be presented with an Award Certificate at a Women's History program in the Supreme Court. The contest is open to all high school students who attend school in Queens County.

Written in 1848, the Declaration of the Seneca Falls Convention, using as a model the Declaration of Independence, forthrightly demanded that the rights of women be acknowledged and respected by society.

On November 1, 1872, Susan B. Anthony registered to vote in Rochester, NY, and on November 5, 1872 she voted in the federal presidential election. For this act of "illegal voting," she was arrested, indicted, prosecuted, found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 and the costs of prosecution, which she refused to pay.

August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States was ratified, giving all American women the right to vote.

Select ONE of these three topics :

"What Significant Events Occurred in the United States since 1920 to Enable a Woman to Run for President Today?"

"In What Ways Did Women's Efforts and Struggles in the past Enable a Woman to Run for President Today?"

" Why Should Women Exercise Their Right to Vote? "

Entries will be judged on:

- * Adherence to topic
- * Appropriateness of subject matter
- * Creative approach
- * Effectiveness of organization
- * Clarity of expression
- * Grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- * Previous year's winners are not eligible to receive an award.

All entries must be typed or neatly written in black or blue ink. All entries must include a cover sheet that includes the student's name, grade level, name of school, and Principal and Teacher's name and contact telephone number, or email at school. All entries must be reviewed with a teacher or parent, and all corrections are to be made before submission to the Committee.

The maximum length is 3 pages, double spaced, and all entries must be submitted no later than March 10, 2008, and sent to:

**NYS Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee
Attention: Susan Beberfall, Esq.
88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435.**

Winners will be notified of the date and place of the award ceremony.

NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
Women's History Month Program:

"DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE INFORMATION AGE"

Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 1:00-2:00PM

8th Floor Conference Room (Room 832), Kew Gardens Courthouse, 125-01 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Professor Elaine Chiu, Esq.

Guest Speaker:

Associate Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law

All Are Welcome!!!

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED - - TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

from Jamaica & L.I.C. Courthouses

CLE CREDIT: 1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit will be offered for this session *
(transitional & non-transitional appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys).
The cost of this program is \$5.00 to cover lunch costs.

* **Application for accreditation of this program is currently pending.**

This program is FREE for those who do not wish CLE Credit

R.S.V.P. NECESSARY By Monday, April 7th

For info. & TO REGISTER, CALL (718) 298-1441 (Chambers of Hon. Sheri S. Roman)

The New York State Supreme Court
Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
In recognition of
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
present:

* * * * *

Sujata Warriar, Ph.D.,

Director- New York City Program of the
New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

* * * * *

TOPIC: ***“The Impact of Culture
on Domestic Violence Cases”***

**Tuesday, October 30, 2007
1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.**

Queens County Courthouse
88-11 Sutphin Boulevard , Jamaica , New York 11435
Courtroom 25

FREE LUNCH: A light lunch will be available*

TRANSPORTATION: Available from Kew Gardens Courthouse*

all are welcome !!!

*R.S.V.P. Required: Call (718) 298-1441
(Judge Sheri Roman's chambers)

PLEASE REGISTER BY October 29th

The NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring a High School Writing Competition in recognition of Women's History Month. Four first place winners will each receive a cash prize of \$50.00, have their winning piece published in the Queens County Bar Association Bar Bulletin or at least one official court newsletter, and will be invited to sit on the bench with a Supreme Court Justice and observe courtroom proceedings. Each winner will be presented with an Award Certificate at a Women's History program in the Supreme Court. The contest is open to all high school students who attend school in Queens County.

Written in 1848, the Declaration of the Seneca Falls Convention, using as a model the Declaration of Independence, forthrightly demanded that the rights of women be acknowledged and respected by society.

On November 1, 1872, Susan B. Anthony registered to vote in Rochester, NY, and on November 5, 1872 she voted in the federal presidential election. For this act of "illegal voting," she was arrested, indicted, prosecuted, found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 and the costs of prosecution, which she refused to pay.

August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States was ratified, giving all American women the right to vote.

Select ONE of these three topics :

"What Significant Events Occurred in the United States since 1920 to Enable a Woman to Run for President Today?"

"In What Ways Did Women's Efforts and Struggles in the past Enable a Woman to Run for President Today?"

" Why Should Women Exercise Their Right to Vote? "

Entries will be judged on:

- * Adherence to topic
- * Appropriateness of subject matter
- * Creative approach
- * Effectiveness of organization
- * Clarity of expression
- * Grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- * Previous year's winners are not eligible to receive an award.

All entries must be typed or neatly written in black or blue ink. All entries must include a cover sheet that includes the student's name, grade level, name of school, and Principal and Teacher's name and contact telephone number, or email at school. All entries must be reviewed with a teacher or parent, and all corrections are to be made before submission to the Committee.

The maximum length is 3 pages, double spaced, and all entries must be submitted no later than March 10, 2008, and sent to:

**NYS Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee
Attention: Susan Beberfall, Esq.
88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435.**

Winners will be notified of the date and place of the award ceremony.

The New York State Supreme Court
Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
In recognition of
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
present:

* * * * *

KAREN KOSLOWITZ,
Deputy Borough President
Recognizes
Women with Long Term Service to
Queens Supreme Court

* * * * *

plus...
Students Making History:
Winners of the 2008
Queens High School Essay Contest

Wednesday March 26, 2008
1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.

Queens County Courthouse
88-11 Sutphin Boulevard , Jamaica , New York 11435
5th floor conference room

FREE - LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!

TRANSPORTATION: available from Kew Gardens & LIC Courthouses

R.S.V.P. Required by MARCH 24TH
Call (718) 298-1441

(Justice Sheri Roman's chambers)

all are welcome !!!

NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
Women's History Month Program:

"DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE INFORMATION AGE"

Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 1:00-2:00PM

8th Floor Conference Room (Room 832), Kew Gardens Courthouse, 125-01 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Guest Speaker: ***Professor Elaine Chiu, Esq.***

Associate Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law

All Are Welcome!!

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED - - TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

from Jamaica & L.I.C. Courthouses

CLE CREDIT: 1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit will be offered for this session *
(transitional & non-transitional appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys).
The cost of this program is \$5.00 to cover lunch costs.

* **Application for accreditation of this program is currently pending.**

This program is FREE for those who do not wish CLE Credit

R.S.V.P. NECESSARY By Monday, April 7th

For info. & TO REGISTER, CALL (718) 298-1441 (Chambers of Hon. Sheri S. Roman)

NYS Supreme Court Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
Women's History Month Program:

**"The Marital Exception to Sexual Abuse Laws
In New York and Other Jurisdictions"**

Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 1:00-2:00PM

8th Floor Conference Room (Room 832), Kew Gardens Courthouse, 125-01 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Guest Speaker:

Professor Elaine Chiu, Esq.

Associate Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE-from Jamaica & L.I.C. Courthouses

CLE CREDIT:

1.0 Hour of Continuing Legal Education credit will be offered for this session *
(transitional & non-transitional appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys).
The cost of this program is \$5.00 to cover lunch costs.

It is FREE for those who do not wish CLE Credit

*** Application for accreditation of this program is currently pending.**

R.S.V.P. NECESSARY By Monday, March 26th

For info. & TO REGISTER, CALL (718) 298-1441 (Chambers of Hon. Sheri S. Roman)

The New York State Supreme Court
Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
In recognition of
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
present:

* * * * *

Professor Margaret Valentine Turano
St. John's University School of Law

* * * * *

TOPIC: *Great Writers: How Do They Do That?*
plus...
Students Making History:
Winners of the 2007
Queens High School Essay Contest

Wednesday May 30, 2007
1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.

Queens County Courthouse
88-11 Sutphin Boulevard , Jamaica , New York 11435
5th floor conference room

LUNCH: available for those who **REGISTER BY MAY 28th**

TRANSPORTATION: available from Kew Gardens & LIC Courthouses

R.S.V.P. Required: Call (718) 298-1441
(Justice Sheri Roman's chambers)

all are welcome !!!

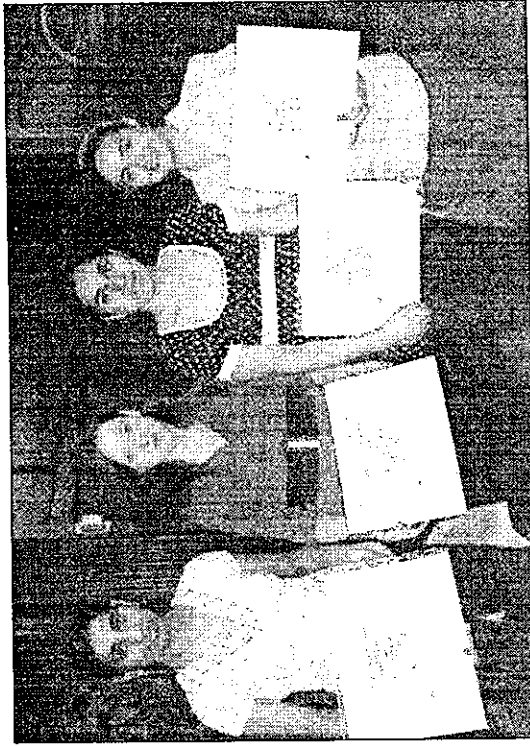
Essay Contest Winners

By SUSAN L. BEBERFALL*

On May 30, 2007, in recognition of Women's History Month, the New York State Supreme Court, Queens County Gender Fairness Committee sponsored a lunch hour discussion, led by Professor Margaret V. Turano, of St. John's University, School of Law, at which time it announced the winners of its 2007 High School Writing Competition. This year's topic was "An Important Woman's Rights Issue That Changed the Law and Improved the Lives of Women." The four first place winners were: Maria Arguello, a senior at John Bowne High School; Rupinder Garcha, a sophomore at Townsend Harris High School; Margaret

Morgan, a junior at Flushing High School; and Sanjeevni Wanchoo, a senior at John Bowne High School. Each student received an award certificate, read from a portion of their essays, and thanks to the generous support of the Court Attorney's Association of the City of New York, received a cash prize. Each student also had the opportunity to spend a day in court, "shadowing" a Justice of the Supreme Court.

*Editor's Note: Susan L. Beberfall, is a Principal Court Attorney, Supreme Court, Queens County, and Chairs the Writing Competition Subcommittee of the NYS Supreme Court, Queens County Gender Fairness Committee, of which Hon. Shari S. Roman is Chairperson.



Rupinder Garcha, Margaret Morgan, Sanjeevni Wanchoo and Maria Arguello.

Criminal Law: Cases

Continued From Page 6

vision without first moving for vacatur in the trial court. As the Court reasoned, "[i]f the trial judge does not mention postrelease supervision at the allocation ... a defendant can hardly be expected to move to withdraw his plea on a ground of which he has no knowledge".

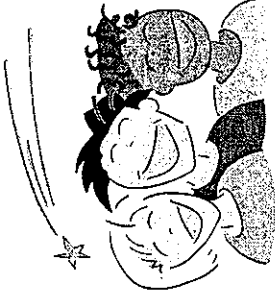
In *People v. Gajadhar*, __ N.Y.3d __, 2007 WL 4380529 (decided December 18, 2007), the Court of Appeals held, for the first time, that a defendant could be convicted by a jury composed of fewer than 12 jurors. In *Gajadhar*, defense counsel advised the trial judge that he would not consent to substituting an alternate juror once deliberations commenced. The alternate jurors were dis-

charged and deliberations continued for two days. On the third day of deliberations, a juror fell ill and had to be hospitalized for a week. Defense counsel then advised the trial judge that the defendant would consent to having the deliberations continue with the remaining 11 jurors. The trial judge granted this request and the remaining 11 jurors then resumed their deliberations. At the conclusion of the trial, the defendant was convicted of attempted robbery in the first degree and was sentenced to a prison term of 20 years.

Gajadhar argued on appeal that a verdict by an 11-member jury violated the State Constitutional guarantee of the right to trial by jury, and relied on a case decided almost 150 years earlier, *Cancemi v. People*, 18

N.Y.128 (1858) which held that a guilty verdict rendered by 11 jurors was a nullity. In rejecting this argument, the Court of Appeals noted that while *Cancemi* was correctly decided when it was, later legislative enactments which permitted a defendant to waive his right to a jury trial and to consent to substituting an alternate juror after deliberations commenced, supported the proposition that the State Constitution did not bar a verdict by an 11-member jury so long as the defendant consented in writing to such a procedure and the trial judge approved it. The *Gajadhar* court did not express any opinion as to whether a verdict by fewer than 11 jurors would comport with the New York State Constitution.

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY



Ages 8 to 16 years

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25th, 2007
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

WHERE:- NYS Supreme Court: 125-01 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens NY 11415

DROP-OFF: 8TH Floor Boardroom@ 9:00 A.M. (Room # 832)

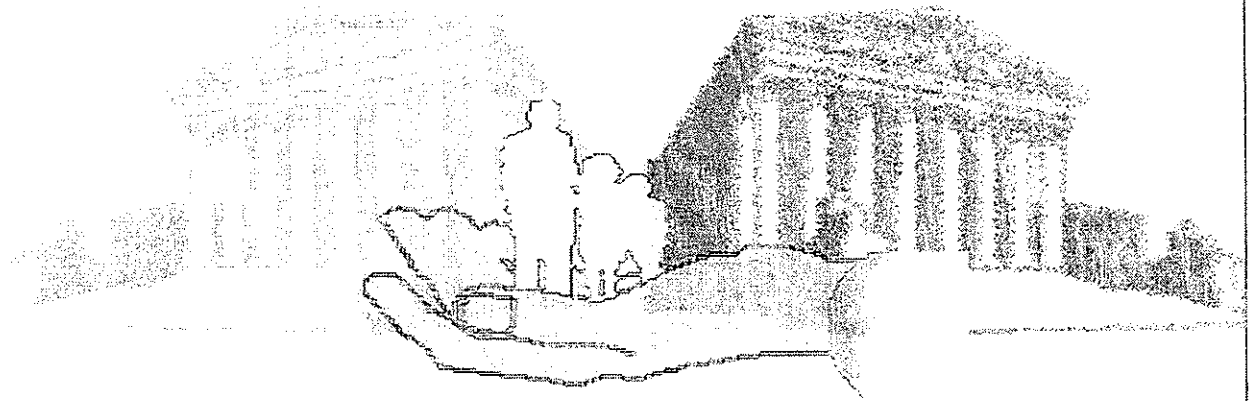
PICK-UP: Part K-18 @1:00 P.M.
(Room # E321 - ANNEX)

R.S.V.P: 298-1441 (JUSTICE ROMAN'S CHAMBERS)

BY MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2007

Registration is necessary !!!!

TAKE OUR SONS TO



WORK DAY

Sponsored by
Queens County Supreme Court

Ages 8 to 16 years

When: Thursday, April 26th, 2007

Where:

N.Y.S. Supreme Court: 125-01 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens

Time: 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Drop-off: 9:00 A.M. @ 8th Floor Boardroom # 832

Pick-up: 12:30 P.M. @ 8th Floor Boardroom

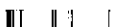
----- R.S.V.P. -----

298-1600 (OPERATIONS - SCO McWEENEY)

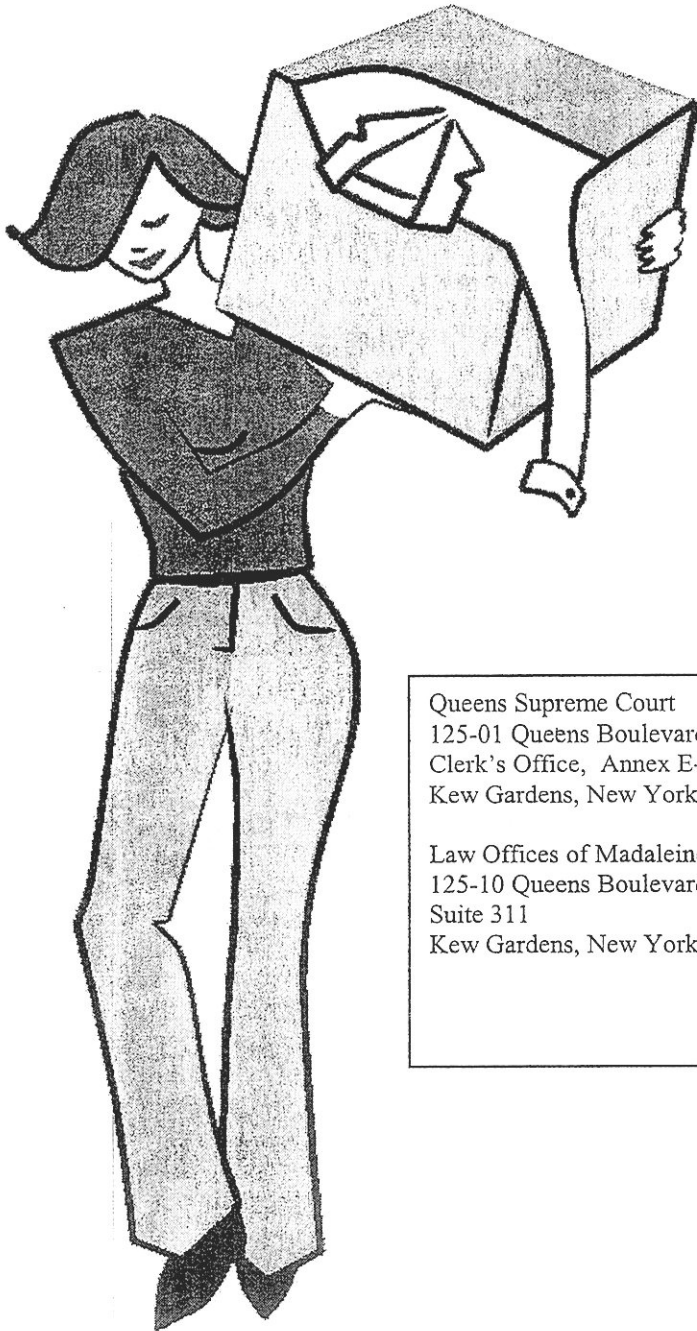
REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY !!!!

QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT

ATTACHMENT F



THE QUEENS COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION Announces



Date: NOV 26 - NOV 29
Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

NEEDED:

Interview Attire
Suits (on hangers) , Shoes,
Handbags, Blouses, Pantyhose
(especially 0-4 and Plus Sizes)

Queens Supreme Court
125-01 Queens Boulevard
Clerk's Office, Annex E-121
Kew Gardens, New York 11415

Law Offices of Madaleine Egelfeld
125-10 Queens Boulevard
Suite 311
Kew Gardens, New York 11415

Queens Civil Court
89-17 Sutphin Boulevard.
Jamaica, New York 11435
Attorney's Room
(behind Small Claims Court)

****Special Thanks to the Gender Fairness Committee, the Court Clerks and Personnel ****

Any Questions or Comments please call

Kathy Ward 718.298.1336

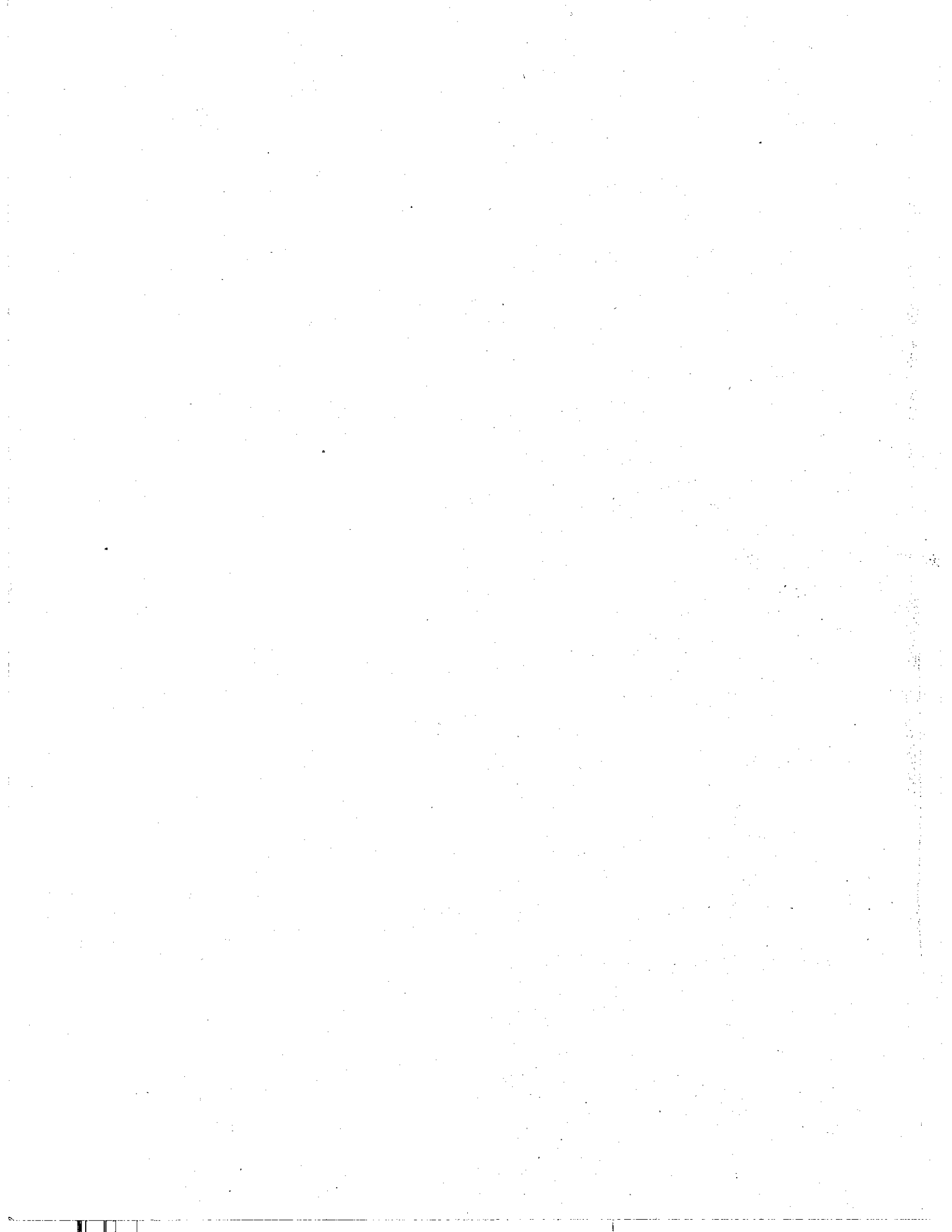
Madaleine Egelfeld 718.544.6363 or Linda Povman 718.261.6408



Brooklyn Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Gloria Dabiri

Supreme Court
360 Adams Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-296-1031



LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2007-2008

Name of the Committee Kings Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee

Name and Title of Chair

Justice Gloria M. Dabiri

No. Members 28 No. of Meetings 9 [2007] 4 [2008] Average Attendance 10-14
Use of Video Conferencing? No

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

Judges [11] Administrators [12] Advocates [0]

(For reports on activities, please include co-sponsors, size of the attendance, and copies of any press)

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2007 see attached

Activities for Women's History Month 2008 see attached

Other Activities in the Past Year see attached

What are your plans for next year? _____

Continue with developing survey aimed at identifying issues of concern to court personnel.

More work with youth on Domestic Violence issues.

Wambui Bahati's one-woman performance on mental illness, to be held jointly with the Kings Family Court.

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

Trainings on sexual harrassment, and on gender and cultural competency

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Do you see unmet training needs?

see above

For Judicial Districts outside NYC, what are the most pressing unmet needs or operational problems in Family Court?

What kind of help would you like from the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts?

see above

Please return this form by **March 17, 2007**, to:
Jill Laurie Goodman, Counsel, NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts,
25 Beaver St., Rm 878, New York, NY 10004, 212-428-2793 (Fax) Jgoodman@Courts.state.ny.us

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH — 2007

- * On October 25, 2007, 1:00 - 2:00 P.M., the Gender Fairness Committees of Kings Supreme Court, and the Kings Family Court presented actress Wambui Bahati in her one-woman performance of “**I am Domestic Violence**”. Ms. Bahati realistically portrays characters who are the victims of, witnesses to or commit domestic violence. Following her performance, Jennifer DeCarli of the Family Justice Center moderated a discussion between Ms. Bahati and the audience. Approximately 35 court employees attended. A resource table was staffed by the Family Justice Center. Light refreshments were provided.
- * Throughout the month of October posted on the court’s webpage was Domestic Violence hotline information and data (see attached).
- * The Committee held a **Halloween Costume Drive** for children living in domestic violence and homeless shelters. Court employees donated more than 100 costumes, six boxes of candy and four boxes of Halloween accessories (masks, toys) which were delivered to the Domestic Violence Shelter of Brooklyn, an umbrella organization.
- * During December of 2007, the Committee undertook a **Book Drive**. English and Spanish language books for children and adults were donated by court employees for distribution by the Domestic Violence Shelter of Brooklyn. It is our understanding that the books are given to families leaving the shelters to assist them in starting home libraries.
- * On August 14, 2007 Supreme Court **high school summer interns** attended a performance by “**My Voice Theatre**” sponsored by the Kings Family Court Gender Fairness Committee. This performance by teen actors dealt with domestic violence issues. A question and answer session followed.

**THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES
OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME & FAMILY COURTS**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007
12:45 P.M.
KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT
320 JAY STREET
CEREMONIAL COURTROOM 2.83**



**GUEST PERFORMANCE
“I Am Domestic Violence”
A One-Woman Show
Wambui Bahati, Actress**

This electrifying one-woman performance:

**** *Enlightens***

**** *Educates***

**** *Entertains***

**** *And gets people talking about Domestic Violence***

Resource Table

Light Refreshments

Contact for Additional Information:

Izetta Johnson

347-296-1231

Special Guest Performs at Brooklyn Supreme Court

Domestic Violence: Appearing Now in a Household Near You

By Elizabeth Stull
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

JAY STREET — This year an unpleasant guest dropped in on the state Supreme Court's observance of domestic violence awareness month. The program was just getting under way with an introduction by Justice Gloria Dabiri, co-chair of the Gender Fairness Committee at the Brooklyn Supreme Court, when the judge was interrupted mid-sentence.

"Well, well, well, you don't know who I am, do you?" the stranger said, in a deep, taunting voice. "That's fine with me." Rising up from the middle of the courtroom audience wearing a gray scarf and red gloves, she swaggered to the front and paced before the rows of judges, court personnel, service providers and lawyers. "Until you decide to see me for what I am, I can get away with murder ... In Section 8 public housing, middle-class home, mansion, golf course — I am everywhere. I'm attracted to people of all ages.

"I am domestic violence! And I'm not going anywhere soon. Because until you decide to take me out of the closet ... it's gonna be a bumpy ride."

With that bleak warning, the specter melted away as actress Wambui Bahati slipped out of the gloves and scarf and reached for a shirt and tie on a nearby coat tree. Singing under her breath, she assumed the first of several less obvious human masks of domestic violence.

"My name is Frank. Yeah, I hit my wife sometimes. But she knows I love her," this character began. "I keep comin' back home, don't I?"

Next we meet Frank's wife, who tries to explain why she allows the abuse to continue. "Where could I go? Where could I possibly go where he could not find me — and then he'd be [really mad]."

It is rare for an adult actor to convincingly play a child, but Wambui Bahati reveals Keisha, Frank's fourth-grade daughter, with special sensitivity. "I try not to talk about it because I don't want to live someplace else," she confides, fidgeting nervously.

In another touching monologue, Bahati becomes an isolated elderly woman who is beaten and robbed by her 39-year-old son. She confides in her pastor — who tells the son. "I'm just a crazy old woman. That's what they say. My son. How do you even say that?"

Then there is the tough-talking waitress with no sympathy for her co-worker's abusive relationship. There is a womanizer who plays with women's emotions and a woman who lets him string her along. Another character was raped by someone she knew.

Finally, perhaps the most heart-breaking narrative: a mother who had told her daughter it was all right that her husband beat her because he



Actress Wambui Bahati fearlessly dons several faces of domestic violence during her stunning one-woman show. Eagle file photo

bought her expensive gifts. "This afternoon is my baby's funeral," the mother says. "He told me he loved her, he just got carried away. Who knew." Again, the character slips away beneath Bahati's crooning song: "Somebody run and tell somebody, this isn't how it's supposed to be ... Too many people living in secrecy."

The wicked personification of domestic violence rears his head one more time, before running off to terrorize a neighborhood near you.

This dramatic performance was, of course, planned and presented by the court's Gender Fairness Committee. The audience of counselors and court personnel, who see and work with the faces of domestic violence on a daily basis, were struck by Bahati's sensitivity and truthfulness in representing them.

Bahati said she was asked to develop the show by someone who saw her one-woman show about mental health in the 1990s. That show had been part of her own healing process after several years in and out of psychiatric hospitals. The Broadway actress now performs these shows across the country and is publishing her first book, "You Don't Know Crazy: A Script for Living Well."

What helped her become a survivor? Bahati said she grew up in Greensboro, N.C., with no self-esteem. Her dramatic talent was recognized early with a Martin Luther King scholarship to study theater at New York University. She first became severely depressed as a student. She suffered sexual violence and married an emotionally abusive man. In the middle of a successful acting career, she hit bottom and sought psychiatric care.

Then, after several years of hospitalization and medication for a string of diagnosed mental illnesses, she decided to move on. "You just sort of go, 'Oh, hell, I'm well.'" She walked away from her doctors, began reading positive psychology literature and

changed her name. Her new name means, "Singer of Songs," and "My fortune is good." She also created "Balancing Act," her one-woman mental health show.

The domestic violence characters also represent pieces of herself and people she has known. The show has evolved, and Brooklynites were asking for more: characters who could speak about same-sex violence, for example, and adolescent experiences.

Getting Message to Other Communities

People at the Brooklyn court were also anxious that Bahati get her message to other communities — "It's always preaching to the choir," said Jezebel Walter, resource coordinator in Brooklyn's felony domestic violence part.

Someone suggested incorporating the show into a longer, multi-dimensional program, or presenting it at bachelor parties to convey the infor-

mation to men's groups.

Bahati has performed the show for teens and school groups, as well. There's "a crossfire between students rejecting the story and those understanding," she said. During the post-show discussion with a Brownie troop, the little girls asked first about her shoes and lipstick.

Justice Dabiri noted that it has been 20 years since the first domestic violence awareness month observance.

What's next for Bahati? She will continue booking her one-woman shows through 2008, and may also try stand-up comedy.

Her "generosity and openness ... captured the essence of the characters," raved Ellen Rosenberg, an attorney for Sanctuary for Families, Battered Women's Services, at the Brooklyn Family Justice Center.

A Thanksgiving food drive for the Family Justice Center continues through tomorrow. All court personnel are invited to contribute.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

***DID YOU KNOW?**

- Studies estimate that between 70% and 85% of cases of abuse against disabled adults go unreported.
- Disabled victims of violence are heavily dependent on their abusive primary caretakers and run the risk of losing their caretaker if they report abuse.
- Children fail to report domestic violence or sexual abuse because of shame, fear of retaliation, or fear of not being believed.
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender violence is vastly under-reported, unacknowledged, and often reported as something other than domestic violence.
- An employed person with an unemployed partner is more than twice as likely to be psychologically abused by their partner.
- One study found that abused women on welfare who received job training were about 7 times more likely to be working and those who received job placement services were about 4 times more likely to be working than women who did not receive job services.
- As many as 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy.
- One out of five women and one out of fourteen men has been physically assaulted by an intimate partner at sometime in their lives.
- Under a similar "one strike" policy, federal law allows public housing authorities to evict families for criminal activity committed by a tenant's family member or guest. Some public housing authorities have improperly used this provision to evict victims of domestic violence violence.

***For sources and more information visit the Family Violence Prevention Fund's National Health Initiative on Domestic Violence at www.endabuse.org/**

SPONSORED BY THE KINGS SUPREME COURT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS*

- ◆ I have the right to be **treated with respect.**
 - ◆ I have the right to **make mistakes.**
 - ◆ I have the right to **express my feelings.**
 - ◆ I have the right to say **No.**
 - ◆ I have the right to **protest unfair treatment or criticism.**
 - ◆ I have the right to **change my mind.**
 - ◆ I have the right to **be free of fear.**
-

***New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence.**

For more information on domestic violence visit: www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence

SPONSORED BY THE KINGS SUPREME COURT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

What is Battering

- ▶ Battering is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person, with whom an intimate relationship is or has been shared, through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Battering happens when one person believes that they are entitled to control another.

Types of Abuse

- ▶ **Physical abuse** is the use of physical force against another in a way that ends up injuring that person or putting him/her at risk of being injured. Physical abuse ranges from physical restraint to murder and may include pushing, throwing, tripping, slapping, hitting, kicking, punching, grabbing, choking, shaking, etc.
- ▶ **Emotional/Psychological abuse** is any use of words, voice, action or lack of action meant to control, hurt or demean another person. Emotional abuse typically includes ridicule, intimidation, or coercion. Verbal abuse usually is included in this category
- ▶ **Sexual abuse** is any forced or coerced sexual act or behavior motivated to acquire power and control over the partner. It is not only forced sexual contact but also contact that demeans or humiliates the partner and instigates feelings of shame or vulnerability, particularly in regards to the body, sexual performance or sexuality.
- ▶ **Financial abuse** is the use or misuse, without the partner's freely given consent, of the financial or other monetary resources of the partner or of the partnership or forbidding the partner from working or jeopardizing their employment so as to prevent them from being able to afford living on their own
- ▶ **Identify abuse** is using personal characteristics to demean, manipulate and control the partner.
- ▶ **Spiritual abuse** is using the spouse's or intimate partner's religious or spiritual beliefs to manipulate them or even preventing them from practicing their beliefs or ridiculing their beliefs.

*For sources and more information visit the **Family Violence Prevention Fund's National Health Initiative on Domestic Violence** at www.endabuse.org/

SPONSORED BY THE KINGS SUPREME COURT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

For more information or to get help contact:

Emergencies
Information

911
311
(800-621-4673)
TDD (866-604-5350)

Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-HOPE

(800-464-3568)
www.vinelink.com

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) Hotline
or visit

Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice websites

American Bar Association, Commission on Domestic Violence www.abanet.org/domviol/home.html

Bronx District Attorney's Office

www.bronxda.net

Kings County District Attorney's Office (Brooklyn)

www.brooklynda.org

Legal Aid Society

www.legal-aid.org/community/

New York County District Attorney's Office

www.manhattanda.org

New York City Victim Information & Notification Everyday

<http://home2.nyc.gov/html/doc/html/vine/vine.shtml>

Queens County District Attorney's Office

www.queensda.org

Richmond County District Attorney's Office (Staten Island)

<http://rcda.nyc.gov/index.html>

***For sources and more information visit the Family Violence Prevention Fund's National Health Initiative on Domestic Violence at www.endabuse.org/**

***For sources and more information visit www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence**

SPONSORED BY THE KINGS SUPREME COURT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Honorable Neil J. Firetog - Administrative Judge,
Kings County Supreme Court Criminal Term

Honorable Ariel Belen - Administrative Judge,
Kings County Supreme Court Civil Term

Honorable Jane Pearl - Supervising Judge
Kings County Family Court

James Imperatrice - Chief Clerk
Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Thomas Kilfoyle - Chief Clerk
Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term

Jennifer DeCarli, Esq. - Family Justice Center

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES

Hon. Gloria Dabiri, Chair - Supreme Court
Lesley Friedland, Esq. Co-Chair - Family Court

Loretta Argiro
Hon. Betsy Barros
Luz Bryan
John Coakley
Hon. Gloria Dabiri
Maria D'Amato
Christine Elbaum
Lesley Friedland, Esq.
Sharon Hewitt
James Imperatrice
Thomas Kilfoyle, Esq.
Hon. John Leventhal
Marcia Margolin, Esq.
Jeanette Mercedes, Esq.
Rod Randall
Noreen Soto-Fier, Esq.
Nancy Sunshine, Esq.
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Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix
Izetta Johnson
Hon. Sarah Krauss
Eric Long
Yvonne Marin, Esq.
Ellen Neri
Leah Richardson
Hon. Marsha Steinhart
Hon. Delores Thomas
Hon. Wavny Toussaint
Hon. Michelle Weston Patterson

The Gender Fairness Committees
of the Kings County Supreme & Family Courts
In recognition of

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WAMBUI BAHATI

Actress

"I Am Domestic Violence" A One-Woman Show

Thursday, October 25, 2007
12:45 P.M.

Kings County Supreme Court
320 Jay Street
Brooklyn, New York
Ceremonial Courtroom 2.83

**THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES
OF THE KINGS COUNTY SUPREME & FAMILY COURTS**

Hosts

Halloween Costume Drive

**For the Children Who Live in
Domestic Violence Safe Houses & Shelters**

ITEMS NEEDED

**Halloween Costumes
Halloween Candies
Halloween Grab Bag Items**

DEMOGRAPHICS OF BOYS & GIRLS LIVING IN SAFE HOUSES & SHELTERS

Ages	Boys	Girls
0-2	11	16
3-5	14	9
6-9	22	16
10-12	10	5
13- 15	6	9
16+	3	4
	<hr/>	
	66	59 = 125 Total Children

Kindly bring your donation to one of these Drop-Off Points:

360 Adams Street: Civil Term
Loretta Argiro, Room 156 - Hon. Gloria Dabiri, Room 1058 - Ellen Neri, 6th floor
320 Jay Street: Criminal Term
Izetta Johnson, Room 13.68 - Operations, Room 14.19
330 Jay Street: Family Court
General Clerk's Office, 7th Floor - Judge's Chambers, 22nd Floor

**ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007**

October 2007



THANK YOU!!!
THANK YOU!!!

Your gift of a Costume, Mask or Halloween goodie will help to make the holiday special for a child living in a domestic violence safe house or shelter.

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES
OF THE KINGS COUNTY SUPREME &
FAMILY COURTS



CENTER AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Board of Directors
Chairman
Elizabeth Toney Doherty
Chair
Richard Bernstein
Secretary
John Milton, Jr.
Treasurer
Judith Kahan
Chief Executive Officer

Advisors
Robert Ekmalian
Robert Krieger
Marek
Meredith
Rauch, Esq.
Richard Reichman, Esq.
Thibodeau
Cora Williams-Cornwell, Esq.

October 26, 2007

Izetta C. Johnson
Senior Management Analyst
Supreme Court Chambers
320 Jay Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Ms Johnson:

Please accept my thanks for your generous donation to the Center Against Domestic Violence. Your donation of 100 Halloween costumes, six cartons of candy and four boxes of Halloween accessories and toys, all in good and useable condition, are greatly appreciated by our organization.

The Center Against Domestic Violence was founded to end domestic violence. Our work with women and their children at Women's Survival Space, Women Safe Start and Women Second Start is aimed at preparing residents to leave the shelter and stay out of violent relationships. When families arrive at the shelter, they come with few possessions. Your generosity affirms their families' choice to live free of violence.

We are grateful for this gift. The Center is proud to count you among our supporters

Sincerely,



Judith Kahan
Chief Executive Officer

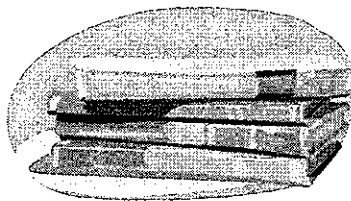
THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES
OF THE KINGS COUNTY SUPREME & FAMILY COURTS
ALONG WITH
THE EMPLOYEES OF
THE KINGS COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Hosts

Holiday

Book Drive

For Families Who Live In
Domestic Violence Safe Houses And Shelters



ITEMS REQUESTED

English Language Educational & Fun Books For Children & Adults
Spanish Language Educational & Fun Books For Children & Adults

(Feel free to include an inspirational and encouraging message or note with your book)

*"When a family leaves the shelter or safe house,
we like to start them off with their own mini-library"*

?? Rona Solomon

Kindly bring your donation to one of these Drop-Off Points:

310 Adams Street: Civil Term

County Clerk, Room 156 - Hon. Gloria Dabiri, Room 1058 - Court Reporters, 6th floor

320 Jay Street: Criminal Term

EEO Office, Room 13.68 - Operations, Room 14.19

330 Jay Street: Family Court

General Clerk's Office, 7th Floor - Judge's Chambers, 22nd Floor

**ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007**

authorized for display / circulation

December 2007

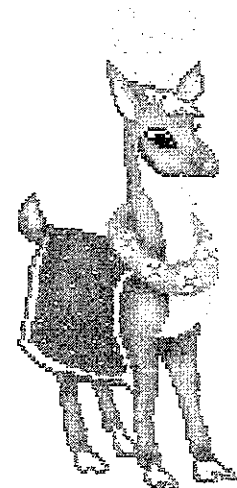


THANK YOU!!!
THANK YOU!!!

Your gift of a Book will help to make the holiday special for a child or adult living in a domestic violence safe house or shelter.

Happy Holidays!

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES
OF THE KINGS COUNTY SUPREME &
FAMILY COURTS



Save the Date!!

August 14, 2007

1:15 - 2:30 pm

Brooklyn Family Court, 8th Floor

Don't miss an inspiring performance by My Voice Theatre

My Voice Theatre was founded in 1996. It is designed as an after-school youth theatre program, which reflects the lives of youths in Bushwick. The company is made up of young men and women between the ages of 12-19 who strive to effect a positive change in their own lives as well as the lives of others. They attack hard hitting issues and learn how to express, write, present monologues and scenes, which helps to break the codes of silences which all too often surrounds our community.

Sponsored by the Gender Fairness Committee

**We will be selling Baked Goods,
CD's, DVD's, and Books from
9 am - 12:30 pm with all
proceeds going to benefit
'My Voice Theatre'**

Location: Family Court, 5th Floor, Part 23

We welcome donations for baked goods, gently used books, CD's and DVD's. To donate baked goods, please contact Sara Reisberg at shreisberg@legal-aid.org. To donate books, CD's or DVD's, please drop them off at the Clerks Office, 7th Floor of Brooklyn Family Court, Mon - Fri between 9 am - 5 pm.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH – 2007

- * **Awards Ceremony** — On March 30, 2007 the Kings Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee held its annual **Ruth Moskowitz Awards Ceremony**. The “**Ruthie**” Award is named in honor of a former colleague who was a civil rights and women’s rights activist, and was highly regarded by Brooklyn’s legal community. The 2007 awardees were: **Judge Matthew D’Emic** Presiding Judge of Brooklyn’s Mental Health Court and former Chair of the Gender Fairness Committee; **Justice L. Priscilla Hall**, past president of the New York State Association of Women Judges; **Justice Larry D. Martin** a Captain (retired) with the United States Navy, and mentor; **Wanda Lucibello, Esq.**, Chief of the Special Victims Division of the Kings District Attorneys Office and; **Esmeralda Simmons, Esq.** Director of the Center for Law and Social Justice.

The first “**Youth Ruthie**” was presented to **Marissa Cappel**, a senior at New Utrecht High School, Justice Moskowitz’ alma mater. Justices and administrators contributed to provide Ms. Cappel with a \$250 bond. Members of Justice Moskowitz’ family participated in the ceremony.

The event was co-sponsored by the Family Court, the Brooklyn Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association and the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York. Approximately 75 people attended and participated in the program.

- * **Court Feud Challenge** — Our Women’s History trivia competitions held during lunch hour attracted significant numbers of court personnel as participants and spectators. The Committee developed rules and questions, and recruited teams. Three teams of five members each, competed in two elimination rounds. The two winning teams competed in the third and final rounds. Teams included court officers, judges, family court employees, administrators, secretaries and clerks. Winning teams were presented with medals, and all participants received a certificate.

More than 100 court employees participated.

- * **Film Screenings** — “*Changing the Face of Justice, the formation of the National Association of Women Judges,*” and “*Madam C.J. Walker, Entrepreneur*” were shown in the jury rooms during lunch hour. Screenings were held on Friday at 320 Jay Street and on Monday at 360 Adams Street.

- * **Quotes** by, and biographies of, prominent women were displayed in the lobbies and near elevators.

VI. MATTHEW J. D'EMIC

Appointed to the Court of Claims in 1996, Judge D'Emic was tapped by Chief Judge Kaye in March of 2002 to open and preside over New York's first Mental Health Court. In this capacity, Judge D'Emic hears cases involving litigants with mental health concerns, and all criminal competency proceedings. Judge D'Emic's work in the Mental Health Court has garnered international attention, and he regularly hosts visitors eager to observe and to learn from his experiences. In addition, since 1998, the Judge has presided in the Brooklyn Domestic Violence Court. A frequent lecturer on criminal justice issues as they relate to domestic violence and mental health, Judge D'Emic has been recognized for his contributions in both fields by the Brooklyn Bar Association, The Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence, The New York State Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, The Brooklyn Psychiatric Center, and The New York State Psychiatric Association. The Judge serves as a Director of Daytop Center, Inc., The Guild for Exceptional Children, Inc., The Mercy Home, Inc., and St. Ann's Dominican High School, his *alma mater*. His published work includes *The Role of the Judge in Treatment Monitoring*, *Judges Criminal Justice/Mental Health Partnership Initiative*, vol. 2, no. 1 (spring 2006); *The Brooklyn Mental Health Court: A Collaborative Effort*, *Psychiatric Times*, xiii, no. 6 (May 2005), and *Presiding at the Bar*, *ABA Litigation*, vol. 24, no. 2 (winter 1998). A graduate of Fordham University and Brooklyn School of Law, Judge D'Emic is an active member of the Catholic Lawyers' Guild and The Cathedral Club. Judge D'Emic is an education consultant to the New York State Judicial Institute, for the Second Department, and former chairperson of the Kings Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee.

VII. L. PRISCILLA HALL

Elected to the Supreme Court in 1993, Justice Hall currently presides in Criminal Term. In response to an increase in child protective complaints following the Nixzmary Brown case, Justice Hall volunteered to hear child protection and termination matters in the Family Court, Kings County during 2006. Prior to ascending to the Supreme Court, Justice Hall served as a Judge of the Court of Claims and on the New York City Criminal Court. Justice Hall has served as President of the New York State Association of Women Judges, Vice-President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and President of the Association of Black Women Attorneys. An active community leader, Justice Hall is a member of the Board of Directors of Achievement First Charter School of Crown

ights and College Preparatory Public Schools for Urban Students, and serves on the board of the Faith Center for Community Development, Inc. Justice Hall is a graduate of Howard University, Columbia University School of Journalism and Columbia University School of Law. She began her career as an Assistant District Attorney in New York County and went on to serve as Inspector General for the New York City Department of Employment, Assistant Attorney General in the New York State Department of Law and Inspector General for the New York City Human Resources Administration. Justice Hall has taught Criminal Procedure, an Adjunct Professor, at Fordham University School of Law. In a recent interview with the New York Law Journal, Justice Hall offered this advice to young lawyers considering a career path to the bench: "It is essential that you maintain your integrity and your reputation from day one."

DR. LARRY D. MARTIN

A Justice of the Supreme Court, since 1994, Justice Martin has presided over the City Trial Readiness Part, the Mental Hygiene Part and the Jury Coordinating Part, as well as both Criminal and Civil Trial parts. Justice Martin began his judicial career in 1991, as a judge of the New York City Civil Court, sitting by designation in the Criminal Court. After thirty six (36) years of service, in February 2007, Captain Larry D. Martin retired from the United States Navy Reserve. As a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps, his duties included advising on matters of International Law, and providing defensive and trial counsel services. A graduate of Boys High School and Johnson C. Smith University (BA), Justice Martin received his Juris Doctor degree from SUNY at Buffalo and a Master of Laws from the University of California at Berkeley. He began his legal career as an attorney with Harlem Legal Services, and went on to serve as Counsel at the Northeast Regional Office of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and as Associate Counsel to the New York State Mortgage Loan Enforcement and Administration Corporation. Justice Martin has mentored youth from the Center for Community Alternatives, the "Legal Lives" Program of the Office of the Kings County District Attorney, and the Y.E.S. Mentoring Program of the Children's Aid Society, sharing with them professional and interpersonal skills and emphasizing their potential to make significant contributions to their communities. Justice Martin has been an Adjunct Professor at the City College of New York in the Center for Legal Education and Urban Policy, and at Brooklyn College Graduate Center. Justice Martin was recently honored by the Kings Supreme Court's Black

y Month Committee for his annual literary reviews published in the Black y Month Newsletter.

A LUCIBELLO, ESQ.

A highly regarded prosecutor, Ms. Lucibello is Chief of the Special Victims Unit of the Office of the Kings County District Attorney. She regularly trains enforcement personnel in the investigation and prosecution of Domestic Violence cases for the National College of District Attorneys and the New York Attorneys Training Institute. In 1998 and 2000, under the auspices of the United States Department of State, she traveled to Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa and to partner with prosecutors and women's organizations in developing preventive initiatives against family violence. Attorney Lucibello has played a key role in the development of numerous programs, studies and innovations in the field of Domestic Violence prosecution and prevention. She contributed to the development of a brochure entitled "Full Faith and Credit in Interstate Orders of Protection" and a training curriculum for the National Institute on the Prosecution of Domestic Violence cases. A commentator on Court TV, she is a frequent guest speaker on Domestic Violence issues before university and community audiences. Attorney Lucibello is the recipient of the Governor's Justice Award to End Domestic Violence, and the Kings County Criminal Bar Association's Robert N. Kaye Memorial Award. Ms. Lucibello was instrumental in the establishment of Queens County's multi-service Family Justice Center, and serves on the National Advisory Board for the President's Family Justice Center Initiative.

ESMERALDA SIMMONS, ESQ.

A civil and human rights attorney, Esmeralda Simmons is the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Law and Social Justice. The Center, which is celebrating its 20th year, is a successful community-based legal advocacy and research institution at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. The Center's advocacy projects include the Parent Advocacy Center which works to improve parent involvement with public schools; the Child Welfare Center, a project with The Child Welfare Fund, dedicated to strengthening efforts to reform the child welfare system; The Police and Racial Violence Project which provides legal counsel and referrals to victims of racial and police violence; and The National Institute of Community Advocacy and Activism. During her career, Dr. Simmons

ed as a member of the New York City Board of Education, the New York
ricting Commission, and as First Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights
ork State. Dr. Simmons is a graduate of Hunter College and received her
ctor from Brooklyn Law School. She is the recipient of numerous public
awards, and serves on the boards of several local and national
tions. Dr. Simmons is a member of TASC FORCE 2009, a group of the
st influential education advocates, convened by Fordham University to
'human-rights based' reforms to the City's public school system. Dr.
s frequently appears in television and radio interviews addressing issues
al rights, education, voting rights and racial discrimination. She is the co-
of the Roundtable of Institutions of People of Color, housed at New York
ty's Wagner School.

CAPPEL

Senior Class President, TASC City Scholar and peer mediator at New
High School, Marissa Cappel, is committed to making a positive difference
hool and in the world. For more than two years Marissa has been a proud
unt in her school's Mediation Program which provides "a place where
can come and discuss their disagreements." She says that as a mediator
"to create a 'win win' agreement where the students can leave feeling they
othing from the session. . . . I am simply a shoulder to lean on and an ear
ing. I dealt with a lot of [other] situations where I [give] advice to my
pecially young girls who feel they have no one to talk to. Talking and
an example to these young girls in my school is very important to me." Ms.
a member of Arista, Archon, Theatre Guild and Dance Squad, has been
to the National Honor Society, and is the recipient of the Weather Bug
7, the Spirit of Anne Frank Award and The Rita & Jacob Salzman
ding Youth Award. When given an opportunity to work at the Downtown
nity Television Center (DCTV), Marissa wrote and produced a short film
ie describes as addressing the respect that her generation shows towards
ves and towards others. With respect to her future, Ms. Cappel says that
always believed that she can make a difference and that she has a purpose
orld. "I don't know what that purpose is but I will find out in the years to

In Celebration Of
Women's History Month



The Kings Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee
proudly presents

The Ruth E. Moskowitz Award

to

Honorable Matthew J. D'Emic
Honorable L. Priscilla Hall
Honorable Larry D. Martin
Esmeralda Simmons, Esq.
Wanda Lucibello, Esq.

* * * * *

Friday, March 30, 2007, 1:00 PM

360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY

** Everyone Welcome - Light Reception to Follow **

* * * * *

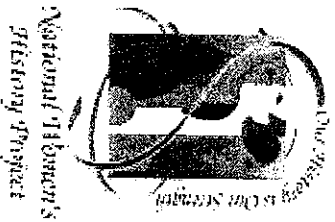
Sponsored by:

Hon. Ariel E. Belen, Administrative Judge-Civil Term
Hon. Neil J. Firetog, Administrative Judge-Criminal Term
The Family Court, Kings County
The Brooklyn Bar Association
The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

- Hon. Gloria M. Dabiri (Chair)
Hon. Betsy Barros
Hon. Bernadette Bayne
Hon. Susan S. Danoff
Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix
Hon. Laura Jacobson
Hon. Sarah Krauss
Hon. John M. Leventhal
Hon. Marsha Steinhardt
Hon. Nancy Sunshine
Hon. Delores Thomas
Hon. Albert Tomei
Hon. Michelle Weston Patterson
Loretta Argiro
Margaret Balles
Capt. Luz Bryan
John Coakley
Donna Farrell
Sharon Hewitt
James Imperatrice
Dina James
Izetta Johnson
Thomas Kilfoyle
Major Eric Long
Marcia Margolin, Esq.
Yvonne Marin, Esq.
Jeanette Mercedes, Esq.
Roderick E. Randall
Leah Richardson
Noreen Soto-Fier, Esq.

In Celebration Of
Women's History Month



Kings Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee
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The Ruth E. Moskowitz Award
to
Honorable Matthew J. D'Emic
Honorable L. Priscilla Hall
Honorable Larry D. Martin
Wanda Lucibello, Esq.
Esmeralda Simmons, Esq.
~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Friday, March 30, 2007, 1:00 PM
360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY
~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Hon. Ariel E. Belen, Administrative Judge-Civil Term
Hon. Neil J. Firetog, Administrative Judge-Criminal Term
Hon. Gloria M. Dabiri, Chair, Gender Fairness Committee

~ PROGRAM ~

Welcome & Introductions

Hon. Gloria M. Dabiri

Opening Remarks

Hon. Ariel E. Belen
Hon. Neil J. Firetog

Greetings

D.A. Charles Hynes
Barton L. Slavin, Esq.
Elaine Avery, Esq.
Pamela Elisofon, Esq.

Remembrance

Leah Gershon

Presentation of "Youth Award"
Marissa Cappel

Leah Gershon

Presentation of "Ruthie" Awards
Hon. Matthew J. D'Emic
Hon. L. Priscilla Hall
Hon. Larry Martin
Wanda Lucibello, Esq.
Esmeralda Simmons, Esq.

Hon. Gloria M. Dabiri
Donna Farrell

Presentation of Proclamations

Yvonne Graham
Deputy Borough
President

Concluding Remarks

Hon. Gloria M. Dabiri

SPONSORS

The Family Court, Kings County

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Brooklyn Bar Association

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

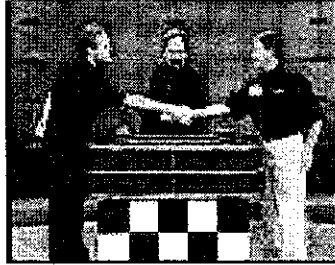
The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Women's Bar Association of New York

**Kings County Courts
Gender Fairness Committee
Presents
Women's History Month**

The Court "Feud" Challenge



Thursday March 8, 2007

(1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

Fun - Prizes - Fun - Prizes - Fun - Prizes

Kings County Supreme Court

320 Jay Street

25th Floor Boardroom

Master of Ceremony

Honorable A. Tomei

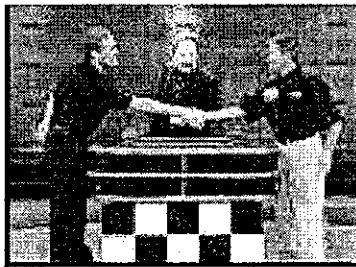
for additional information contact:

Leah Richardson
Margaret Balles
Luz Bryan

(347) 296-1880
(347) 296-1031
(347) 296-1183

Kings County Courts
Gender Fairness Committee
Presents...
Women's History Month

The Court "Feud" Challenge "Round 2"



Thursday March 15, 2007
(1:00 p.m. Sharp - 2:00 p.m.)

Fun - Prizes - Fun - Prizes - Fun - Prizes

Kings County Supreme Court
320 Jay Street
Ceremonial Courtroom
2nd floor rm. 2.95

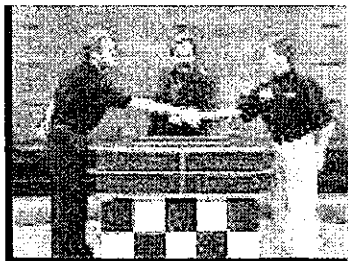
Master of Ceremony
Honorable A. Tomei

for additional information contact:

Leah Richardson (347) 296-1880
Luz Bryan (347) 296-1183

Kings County Courts
Gender Fairness Committee
Presents...
Women's History Month

The Court "Feud" Challenge Final Round



Thursday March 22, 2007
(1:00 p.m. Sharp - 2:00 p.m.)

Fun - Prizes - Fun - Prizes - Fun - Prizes

Kings County Supreme Court
320 Jay Street
Ceremonial Courtroom
2nd floor rm. 2.95

Master of Ceremony
Honorable A. Tomei

for additional information contact:

Leah Richardson (347) 296-1880
Luz Bryan (347) 296-1183

COURT "FEUD" RULES

Three teams (Supreme Court Civil, Criminal, Family Court)
Five members on each team.
Only one person will be team leader and in control of buzzer.
You have 30 seconds to answer each question.
All team members can deliberate on answer, but only team leader can give answer.

SCORING

First team to hit buzzer and answer correctly +5 points

First team to hit buzzer and answer incorrectly -1 points

Second team to hit buzzer and answer correctly +3 points

Second team to hit buzzer and answer incorrectly -1 point

Third team to hit buzzer and answer correctly +1 point

Third team to hit buzzer and answer incorrectly -1 point

1. Who was the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?

- Abigail Adams
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- Sandra Day O'Connor
- Phyllis Schlafly

Answer: Sandra Day O'Connor

2. In what year did she begin her term?

- 1975
- 1981
- 1983
- 1987

Answer: 1981

1. About which of these women did a US president reportedly say that her book started a great war?

- Margaret Bourke-White
- Margaret Mitchell
- Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Edith Wharton

Answer: Harriet Beecher Stowe

What is the name of the book:

Answer: Uncle Tom's Cabin

In English and American common law, coverture refers to what?

- The part of a woman's estate which her widower may use during his lifetime.
- The right of a woman to own property in her own name.
- The legal status of a married woman.
- Land owned by a woman in her own name before marriage
- Concealment of pregnancy from one's legal husband

Answer: The legal status of a married woman.

**In Honor Of
Women's History Month**

**You are invited to attend a
screening of the film**

"Changing the Face of Justice"

The story of the formation of the

National Association of Women Judges

Monday, March 12, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

Supreme Court 360 Adams Street

11th Floor Boardroom

Sponsored by, the Kings County Supreme and Family Courts

Gender Fairness Committee



*In Honor of
Women's History Month*

*You are invited to attend
a screening of the film*

“Madam C.J. Walker, Entrepreneur”

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.
Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street
7th Floor Lunchroom
Room 766*

*Sponsored by the Kings County Supreme and Family
Courts Gender Fairness Committee*

GREAT QUOTES BY GREAT WOMEN IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"GENERATIONS OF WOMEN MOVING HISTORY FORWARD"

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily difference we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee."

Marian Wright Edelman (1939-present)
Families in Peril (1987)

"I decided it is better to scream. . . . Silence is the real crime against humanity."

Nadezhda Mandelstam (1899-1980)
Hope Against Hope (1970)

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' . . . You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)
You Learn by Living (1960)

"When it comes to getting things done, we need fewer architects and more bricklayers."

Colleen C. Barrett (1944-present)
President and Chief Operating Officer,
Southwest Airlines Company

UP COMING
EVENTS FOR
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH
MARCH 2007

RUTH E.
MOSKOWITZ
AWARD
CEREMONY

FRIDAY,
MARCH 30TH
1:00 – 2:00PM
360 ADAMS ST.
CONFERENCE
ROOM 224



GREAT WOMEN IN HISTORY: JANE MATILDA BOLIN IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

“Jane Matilda Bolin was the first black woman judge in the United States. Bolin was born April 11, 1908, in Poughkeepsie, New York, to Gaius C. Bolin and Matilda Emery Bolin ... she attended Wellesley College and soon was named a Wellesley Scholar, one of the top twenty women in her class. She received her bachelor of arts degree, with honors, in 1928.

Shortly after her graduation from college Bolin announced her intention to attend Yale Law School. Her father was at first opposed to the idea because he felt that the law was a profession unsuited to women. He let his daughter know he would prefer she pursue teaching but she was determined to become a lawyer. She graduated from Yale Law School in 1931, the first African American woman to do so.

Bolin was admitted to the New York bar in 1932 and began her legal career with her father and brother's law firm in Poughkeepsie. In 1933 she married Ralph E. Mizelle, also an attorney, and they settled in New York City.

Bolin's judicial career commenced just a few years after she and her husband began practicing law together. On April 7, 1937, she was named assistant corporate counsel in New York City's law department. She served two years in that position before being summoned, to her complete surprise, to the office of Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. On July 22, 1939, La Guardia appointed her justice of the Domestic Relations Court of the City of New York (later called the family court), making her the first black woman judge in the United States. She presided over family court cases for four consecutive ten-year terms, until she reached the mandatory retirement age of seventy ...

Bolin has been described as a militant, but quiet, fighter for justice. She earned a reputation as a courageous, no-nonsense, hard worker who never shirked an assignment. In addition to being a committed professional, Bolin served on the boards of a number of organizations: the New York Urban League, the NAACP and its New York chapter, the Harlem Tuberculosis Committee, the legislative committee of the United Neighborhood Houses, the Wiltwick School for Boys, the Dalton School, and the Harlem Lawyers' Association. She was a member of the Committee on Children of New York City, the Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students, and the Committee against Discrimination in Housing ... ” (Legal Encyclopedia information about Jane Matilda Bolin [West's Encyclopedia of American Law](#). Copyright © 1998 by [The Gale Group, Inc.](#))

UP COMING EVENTS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MARCH 2007

THE COURT “FEUD” CHALLENGE

THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH
1:00 – 2:00P.M.
320 JAY STREET
25TH FL. BOARDROOM

RUTH E. MOSKOWITZ AWARD CEREMONY

FRIDAY, MARCH 30TH
1:00 – 2:00P.M.
360 ADAMS STREET,
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

MARCH 8, 2007



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH — 2008

- * On April 10, 2008 the Kings Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee will host its annual **Ruth Moskowitz Awards Ceremony**. The event will be co-sponsored by the Brooklyn Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. Our second "**Youth Ruthie**" Award will be presented to a high school senior. This years awardees are **Surrogate Diana A. Johnson, Major Luz Bryan and Jeanette Mercedes, Esq.**

- * Our Women's History "**Court Feud Challenge**" trivia games are being held again this year. The final round is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2008.

- * Two **film screenings** are being held in the Central Jury rooms at 320 Jay Street and 360 Adams Street during lunch hour: "*9/11 Fear in Silence: The Forgotten Underdogs*" and "*Taking the Heat: The First Women Firefighters of New York City*".

- * Finally, **posters** with information about great women in history have been placed in the lobbies and near elevators.

In Celebration Of
Women's History Month



**The Kings Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee
proudly presents**

The Ruth E. Moskowitz Award

to

**Surrogate Diana A. Johnson
Major Luz G. Bryan
Jeanette Mercedes, Esq.**

* * * * *

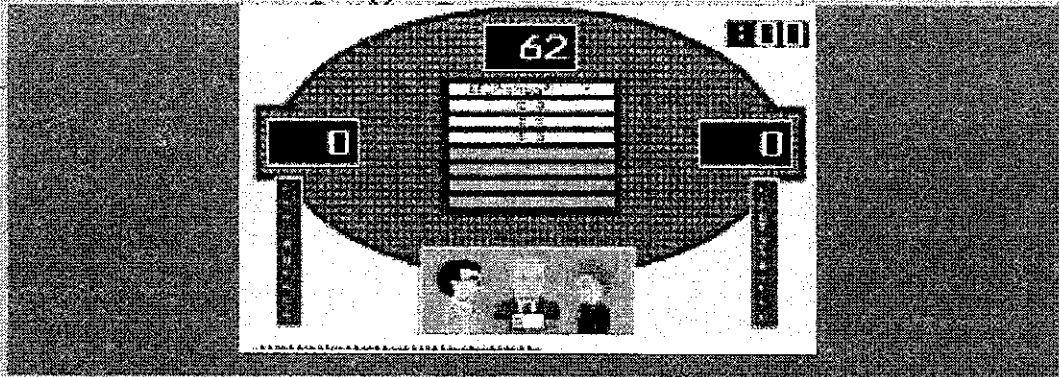
**Thursday, April 10, 2008, 12:45 P.M.
360 Adams Street, Room 319, Brooklyn, NY**

**** Everyone Welcome – Light Reception to Follow ****

* * * * *

Sponsored by:

**Hon. L. Priscilla Hall, Administrative Judge - Criminal Term
Hon. Abraham Gerges, Acting Administrative Judge - Civil Term
The Brooklyn Bar Association
The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association
The Women's Bar Association of the State of New York**



Kings "Supreme and Family Courts"
Gender Fairness Committee
Presents...

Women's History Month
The Court "Feud" Challenge
Games will take place on

Tuesday, March 11th, 18th & 25th
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Located at 320 Jay St. 2nd floor rm. 2.95

How Well Do You Know Women's History?

If you dare to take the challenge contact:

Hon. Sarah Krauss	347 - 401-9714
Leah Richardson	347- 296-1880
Machelle Sweeting	347- 296-1062
Izetta Johnson	347- 296-1231
Ellen Neri	347- 296-1384
Luz Bryan	347- 296-1183
Loretta Argiro	347 - 404-9799
Lucy Di Salvo	347- 296 -1498
Julie Di Palma	347 296 -1028

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Women's History Month

KINGS SUPREME COURT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

- ❖ Brenda Berkman became one of NYC's first woman firefighter after she successfully sued the department for the right to become a firefighter.
- ❖ Margaret Dowd was the first woman chief of Brooklyn Supreme Court's Law Department [1998].
- ❖ Lt. Rochelle Jones was among the group of first women to join the NYC Fire Department and first woman to be promoted to lieutenant in 1994.
- ❖ Vivian Agress, Esq. was the first woman president of the Brooklyn Bar Association.
- ❖ The first woman to receive The Purple Heart was Annie G. Fox while serving at Hickam Field during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.
- ❖ Martha DeSasaurre was the first African-American legal secretary in the NYS Appellate Division, Second Department.
- ❖ In 1872 Victoria Woodhull was the first woman to run for President of the United States.
- ❖ Belva Ann Lockwood was the first woman lawyer in the United States and the first to argue a case before the United States Supreme Court in 1880.

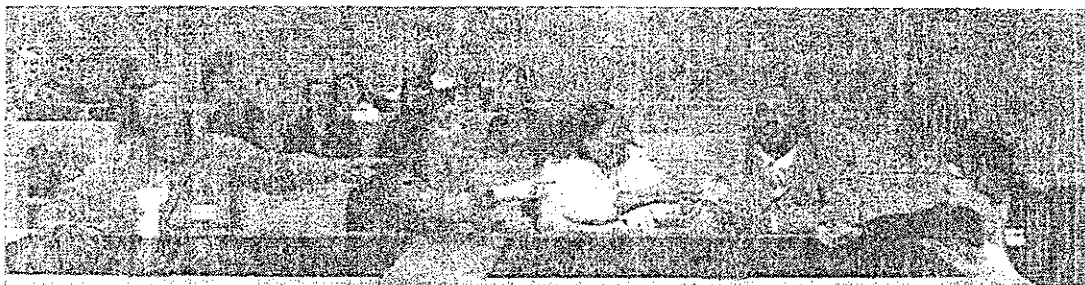
IN HISTORY



Anthony

BROOKLYN DAILY BULLETIN
Thursday, Mar. 12, 2008
p. 16, col. 3

COURT FEUD CHALLENGE BEGINS IN BROOKLYN SUPREME COURT. In honor of Women's History Month, each Tuesday at 1 p.m., court employees will join M.C. Justice Albert Tomei in the ceremonial courtroom at 320 Jay St. to compete in the month-long gameshow.



The "feud" will continue for the duration of March. Pictured above is the "Voir Dears"

team, comprised of (from left to right) Kenneth Barrow, Milagros Bencebi, Sylvia Silva, Kevin Burns, Mary Anne Schultz, all from the County Clerk's Office of the Kings County Jury Division.

Photo by Senior Court Analyst Barbara Parkes

In Honor of Women's History Month

*The Kings County Supreme Court
Gender Fairness Committee*

Presents

TAKING THE HEAT: THE FIRST WOMEN FIREFIGHTERS OF NEW YORK CITY

March 26th

1:00 pm

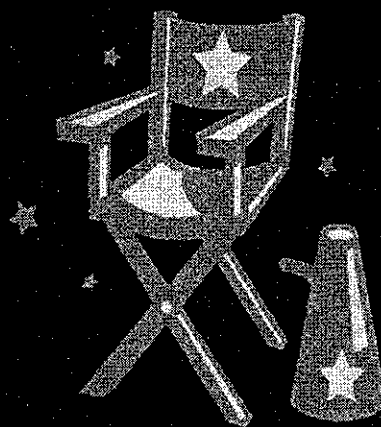
360 Adams St
Central Jury
Room 260

March 27th

1:00 pm

320 Jay Street
Central Jury
Room 2.60

The story of Brenda Berkman and the small group of women who dared to want a "man's job." Through one-on-one interviews, filmmaker Bann Roy exposes the loneliness, violence and abuse these women endured to serve their communities.





SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF KINGS

CIVIC CENTER AT MONTAGUE STREET

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

In celebration of

Women's History Month

The Kings Supreme Court Gender
Fairness Committee

presents

9/11 FEAR IN SILENCE: THE FORGOTTEN UNDERDOGS

a film

Directed and Produced by

Anne Marie "Jade" Bryan

The latest work from the 11-year-old African American filmmaker, top
graduate from The Tisch School of the Arts at NYU and
an award-winning deaf filmmaker.

Wednesday March 5th

1:00 pm

360 Adams Street

Central Jury

Room 260

Thursday March 6th

1:00 pm

320 Jay Street

Central Jury

Room 260

BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY — 2007

The Gender Fairness Committee of the Kings Supreme Court, Civil and Criminal Terms held its Bring Your Child To Work program on April 5, 2007, during the New York City public school spring recess week. 110 children, ages 6-14, and approximately 60 volunteers, participated. The program was held from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Judges spoke with children and answered questions about the courts. Children had their photographs taken on the bench and in robes. The children were fingerprinted. Younger children were presented with a magic show, while older children participated in a mock trial. Last year's case was *People v Oscar Grouch*. The children role-played prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, jurors, witnesses and court officers. Attorneys and court staff prepared the children for their roles. The program was organized by Gender Fairness Committee member Jeanette Mercedes, Esq. and co-sponsored by the Court Attorneys Association, and the Association of Surrogate and Supreme Court Reporters within the City of New York.

All children were provided with, and were required to wear, white lettered tee-shirts, name tags and red knapsacks. Volunteers were identified by red lettered tee-shirts.

Bring Your Child To Work Day Program
Thursday, April 5, 2007 10 a.m.- 1p.m.
360 Adams St., Room 974

- 9:00 a.m.- 9:40 am** **Registration in the following courtrooms:**
- 7-8 years old: Courtroom 961 (Judge Jacobson)**
- 9-10 years old: Courtroom 974 (Judge Pesce)**
- 11-14 years old: Courtroom 956 (Judge Dabiri)**
-
- 9:00 a.m.- 9:45 a.m.** **Photos for Children under 7(Courtroom 961)**
-
- 9:45 a.m.- 11 a.m.** **Welcoming Remarks(Courtroom 974) by**
Judge Dabiri, AJs Belen & Firetog
King Henry- Magic Tricks
Jeanette Mercedes-Prizes
-
- 11 a.m.- 11:35 a.m.** **Photos- Courtroom 974 -Group 1(AGES 9-10)**
Pat Novella - Courtroom 956-Group 2(AGES 11-14)
11am-11:20am **Judge Jacobson-Courtroom 961-Group 3 (AGES 7-8)**
-
- 11:35 a.m.- 12:10 pm** **First Mock Trial-Courtroom 974-Group 1(AGES 9-10)**
Photos- Courtroom 956-Group 2(AGES 11-14)
Pat Novella-Courtroom 961- Group 3(AGES 7-8)
- 11:20 a.m.- 12:10 pm.** **Fingerprinting-Courtroom 961- Group 3(AGES 7-8)**
-
- 12:10 p.m.- 12:45 p.m.** **Second Mock Trial - Courtroom 956- Group 2(AGES 11-14)**
Photos- Courtroom 961-Group 3(AGES 7-8)
Pat Novella-Courtroom 974-Group 1(AGES 9-10)
-
- 12:45 pm- 1:00pm** **Third Mock Trial(Employees)-Courtroom 956**
Group 1(AGES 9-10) & Group 2(AGES 11-14)-Ctroom 956
-
- 1:00 p.m. -** **Program Ends- pick up children at the following courtrooms:**
- 7-8 years old: Courtroom 961 (Judge Jacobson)**
- 9-10 years old: Courtroom 974 (Judge Pesce)**
- 11-14 years old: Courtroom 956 (Judge Dabiri)**