

ANNUAL REPORTS

*Local Gender Bias and
Gender Fairness Committees*

2014-2015

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Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

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

Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

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

Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair

Seventh Judicial District Committee Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Teresa Johnson, Chair

Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee

Hon. Jeannette Ogden, Chair and Sharon Thomas, Vice Chair

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

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

Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee

Hon. Marian Rose Tinari and Cynthia Vargas, Chairs

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

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

*Committee on Equality in the Courts for the Twelfth Judicial District,
Bronx County Civil Court*

Hon. Elizabeth Taylor and Hon. Eddie J. McShan, Chairs

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

Hon. Deborah Kaplan and Gregory Testa, Chairs

Gender Fairness Committee, New York County Criminal Court

Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff and Janet Curley, Chairs

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

Hon. Gloria Dabiri, Chair

Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Term and Kings County Family Court
Hon. Patricia E. Henry and Hon. Emily Olshansky, Chairs

Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee
Hon. Genine D. Edwards, Chair

New York County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee
Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, Chair

Queens County Criminal Matters Gender Fairness Committee
(Supreme Court, Criminal Term, and Criminal Court)
Hon. Marcia Hirsch and Hon. Pauline Mullings, Chairs

The Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts of
Queens Supreme Court- Civil Term
Hon. Marguerite A. Grays, Chair

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

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

New York County Family Court Gender Fairness Committee
Hon. Gloria Sosa-Lintner, Chair

Queens County Family Court Gender Fairness Committee
Hon. Margaret Parisi McGowan and June M. Brieese, Chairs

Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

Courts Outside New York City

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee
Hon. Rachel L. Kretser, Co-Chair

Albany City Court, Criminal Part
1 Morton Avenue
Albany, NY 12202
RKretser@nycourts.gov

Patricia Beeler, Co-Chair

Unified Court System (Ret.)
Rensselaer County Family Court
1504 Fifth Ave.
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518-270-3761
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Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair

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Tatiana Coffinger, Vice Chair

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Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq., Vice Chair

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Eleanor DeCoursey, Esq., Vice Chair

113 Saratoga Road, Suite 100
Glenville, NY 12302
518-399-5400
edecoursey@gtdlaw.com

Fifth Judicial District Committee

Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair

Supreme Court Justice
Onondaga County Courthouse
401 Montgomery Street, Room 401
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-671-1106
DKaralun@nycourts.gov

Sixth Judicial District Committee

Hon. Molly Fitzgerald, Chair

Supreme Court Justice
Broome Supreme Court
92 Court Street
P. O. Box 1766
Binghamton, NY 13902
607-240-5813
mfitzgerald@nycourts.gov

Seventh Judicial District Committee

Hon. Teresa Johnson, Chair

Rochester City Court
Hall of Justice
99 Exchange Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14614
585-428-1904
TJohnson@nycourts.gov

Eighth Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee

Hon. Jeannette Ogden, Chair

Buffalo City Court
550 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-845-2647
eogden@nycourts.gov

Sharon Thomas, Vice Chair

Chief Clerk
Buffalo City Court
550 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-845-2652
sthomas@nycourts.gov

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair

Court of Claims
140 Grand Street, Suite 507
White Plains, NY 10601
914-289-2310
TRuderma@nycourts.gov

Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Julianne Capetola, Chair

Nassau County Family Court
1200 Old Country Road
Westbury, NY 11590
516-493-3860
JCapetola@nycourts.gov

Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee

Hon. Marian Tinari, Co-Chair

Suffolk County District Court
Cohalan Court Complex
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722
631-853-7534
mtinari@nycourts.gov

Cynthia Vargas, Co-Chair

1622 Brentwood Road
Bay Shore, NY 11706
631-666-0033
cynvargas@optonline.net

Courts Within New York City ~~~~~

NYC Family Court Committees

Bronx

Hon. Carol Sherman

Bronx Family Court
900 Sheridan Ave.
Bronx, NY 10451
718-618-2216
CRSHERMA@nycourts.gov

Kings County

Hon. Emily Olshansky

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

New York County

Hon. Gloria Sosa-Lintner NY

County Family Court
60 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10016
646-386-5118
GSosaLin@nycourts.gov

Queens County

Hon. Margaret McGowan

Queens Family Court
151-20 Jamaica Ave.
Jamaica, NY 11432
718-298-0219
MMcGowan@nycourts.gov

Staten Island

Hon. Karen A. Wolff

Richmond County Family Court
100 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301
718-675-8870
kwolff@nycourts.gov

Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

Bronx Committees

Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District, Supreme Court Committee Hon. Richard Lee Price, Chair

Supreme Court Justice
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
718-590-3590
RPRICE@nycourts.gov

Hon. Josephine Bastone, Vice-Chair

Court Referee
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
718-618-1344
JBastone@nycourts.gov

Bronx County Civil Court Committee

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

New York County Committees

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

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

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

NY County Civil Court Committee

Hon. Tanya Kennedy
Supervising Judge, Civil Court
111 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013
646-386-5414
TKennedy@nycourts.gov

Gender Bias Committee, NY County, Supreme Court, Criminal Term

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

NY County Criminal Court Committee

Hon. Lisa Sokoloff
100 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013
646-386-4743
LSokolof@nycourts.gov

Kings County Committees

Kings County Gender Fairness Committee

(Supreme Court, Civil Term)
Hon. Gloria Dabiri
360 Adams Street, Room 370
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-296-1536
GDabiri@nycourts.gov

Kings County Civil Court Committee

Hon. Genine D. Edwards
Kings Court Civil Court
141 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-404-9095
GDEdward@nycourts.gov

Kings County Supreme Court Criminal Term Committee

Hon. Patricia Henry
320 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-296-1366
PHenry@nycourts.gov

Kings County Criminal Court Committee

Hon. Dena Douglas
Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
347-404-9483
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Queens County Committees

Queens County, Supreme Court, Civil Term Committee Hon. Marguerite A. Grays

Supreme Court
88-11 Sutphin Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11435
718-298-1212
MGrays@nycourts.gov

Queens County, Criminal Committee

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

Hon. Pauline Mullings, Co-Chair

Queens Criminal Court Building
125-01 Queens Blvd.
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
718-298-0930
pmulling@nycourts.gov

Richmond County Committee

Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto

Supreme Court Justice
18 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301
718-876-6424
BPanepin@nycourts.gov

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Rachel L. Kretser, Chair

Patricia Beeler, Vice Chair

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: *Hon. Rachel L. Kretser and Vice-chair, Patricia Beeler, UCS (ret.)*

Members: *Pattie Beeler; Hon. Christopher Cahill; Hon. Andrew Ceresia; Karen DeBenedetto; Lisa Frisch; Hon. Helena Heath; Betsy Helm; Sheila Horton; Nancy Jones; Karen Linen; Chris McMurray; Rika Murray; Christina Ryba; Matthew Side; F. Christian Spies; Hon. Leslie Stein; Brenda Vandermark*

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

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *1/23/14, 5/29/14, 9/18/14 & 1/22/15*

Average Attendance: *15*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No for meetings but yes for webinars.*

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

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *In general, we believe it a success whenever we sponsor or co-sponsor an event and carry the message of fairness and neutrality forward. All of our events, and in particular this year, the "How to Become a Judge" program carry important messages about gender, sexual preferences, racially and culturally sensitive awarenesses and all other issues of fairness and behavior that should be promoted by and expected within the Courts and in life.*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

None. The Committee was advised by the Third Judicial District Administrative Office that, pursuant to Advisory Commission Opinions 04-59 & 05-62, we could not partner with groups representing domestic violence victims. We are seeking clarification.

Activities for Women's History Month:

March 25, 2014, we co-sponsored a Screening of the film Ms. Representation at the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom at the Albany Law School with a post screening panel discussion. Panel participants included: Dean Penelope (Penny) Andrews, Albany Law School Mayor Kathy Sheehan '94, City of Albany, Dina Refki, Executive Director, Center

for Women in Government and Civil Society and **Whitney Phelps '02**, Partner, Greenberg Traurig.

Other Special Events or Activities:

- *On February 12, 2014, we co-sponsored, with the Capital District Black and Hispanic Bar and the New York State Bar Association Committee on Diversity, Youth Law Day, a program to encourage young people, including people of color to consider a legal career.*
- *On February 24, 2014, we co-sponsored, with the Capital District Women's Bar Association, a CLE program at Albany Law School entitled "Diversity – How to Acknowledge our Bias, Address our Differences and Avoid Discrimination."*
- *On September 12, 2014, we co-sponsored a highly successful "How to Become a Judge" CLE program, which was well-attended and widely promoted. Please see attached description.*
- *Many of our members are active year round in other activities not related to the Committee, but nevertheless relate to the mission and goals of the Committee.*

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email, Flyer, and E-blasts

Who and how many attended? *Judges, court staff, attorneys, students, general public, service providers, partner organization members, bar association representatives, attorneys and college and law school professors and committee members. Depending upon the program, from the ten to 100's attended.*

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

At our May 2015 meeting, Marc Levine, Chair of the Gay/Straight Alliance of the NYS Courts, will be speaking to us on issues relating to the activities and goals of the Alliance. As alluded to above, we also plan to seek approval, subject to ethics rulings, to develop, publish and distribute a brochure that addresses the roles and relationships of advocates and attorneys in DV cases so that they can have an effective working relationship. Member Lisa Frisch, Executive Director of The Legal Project, has tasked TLP's interns and fellows from Albany Law School with developing a draft brochure for the Committee's review.

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015? *Regular quarterly meetings plus additional subcommittee meetings.*

Concerns

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

Diversifying the bench in the Third Judicial District, which according to a recently released NYS Bar Association report, lags far behind the rest of the state in the appointment and election of women and minorities to the judiciary.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Yes – a lack of adequate and affordable supervised visitation centers. Family Court child care centers are the first to go in budget cutting, but are extremely important in supporting access to justice for women and families.*

Do you see unmet training needs?

A need exists for ongoing training in DV and sexual assault for the judiciary and court staff.

Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Continued focus on Domestic Violence, including how animal abuse often leads to child abuse and domestic violence and how abuse of pets is also a mechanism for subjugating and intimidating domestic violence victims.*

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

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

Collaboration

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

Yes, too numerous to list all, but for example: the Capital District Women's Bar Domestic Violence Legal Project, New York State Bar Association, Albany County Bar Association, Capital District Women's Bar Association, Capital District Black and Hispanic Bar Association, Franklin Williams Judicial Commission, Albany Law School, Center for Women in Government and Russell Sage College. We are again hoping to partner with the Capital District Women's Bar Association to present "The Mask You Live In," a film about gender stereotypes (produced by the MisRepresentation Film Makers). It will be a screening and discussion with a panel of experts.

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *Program ideas are always helpful. Also, please consider conducting a webinar once a year or so addressing a topic of common interest to all the committees, e.g., best practices or challenges or problems which we all face. Please provide videoconferencing of the Annual Women in the Courts meetings.*

Is there anything else you would like to submit?

We would like to note that our member, Hon. Rachel Kretser, Albany City Court Judge, recently presented the inaugural NYSBA Judicial Diversity Award to Presiding Justice Karen K. Peters at the NYSBA Annual Meeting in New York City. We would also like to congratulate member and past chair, Hon. Leslie E. Stein on her elevation to the New York State Court of Appeals.

ATTACHMENT

On September 12, 2014, the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee co-sponsored a CLE entitled, "Everything You Need to Know about Becoming a Judge." The event was held at Albany Law School, and was co-chaired by Honorable Karen K. Peters, Presiding Justice of the Third Department, and Honorable Rose H. Sconiers, Appellate Division, Fourth Department and Chair of the Franklin H Williams Judicial Commission.

The program was divided into five separate panels, beginning with an overview of election law and related ethical requirements, which was moderated by Presiding Justice Peters. That panel included: Matthew Clyne, Esq., Albany Democratic Party Leader and Democratic Elections Commissioner; Cathleen S. Cenci, Deputy Administrator, NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct; James E. Long, Esq. Law Office of James E. Long, Esq.; Brian R. Haak, Esq. Election Law Attorney and Town of Colonie Councilman.

April M. Dalbec, President of the Capital District Women's Bar Association, moderated a discussion of the judicial evaluation process and navigating judicial screening of panels. Panelists included: Timothy P. O'Keefe, Director of New York State Judicial Election Qualification Commission, Third Department and Christopher Massaroni, Esq. Chair of the Albany County Bar Association Judicial Screening Committee.

Honorable Doris M. Gonzalez, Acting Supreme Court Justice of the Supreme Court in Bronx County and President of the Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage, and a member of the Judicial Council, moderated the third panel where panelists, Honorable Karen K. Peters, Presiding Justice Third Department; Honorable Leslie E. Stein, Appellate Division, Third Department; Paul Caputo, Albany County Independence Party Chair and Richard Jacobson, Esq., Chair of the Albany County Democratic Committee's Law Committee, discussed the process of securing a nomination in Supreme Court.

Peter G. Crummey, President of the Albany County bar Association and Justice of the Colonie Town Court, moderated the fourth panel entitled, "Making the Ballot in Town, City, County, and Family Court." Honorable Debra J. Young, Rensselaer County Court Judge; Honorable Susan M. Kushner, Albany County Family Court Judge; and Honorable William A. Carter my colleague on the Albany City Criminal Court, joined me as panelists.

The CLE ended with a panel discussing the appointment process for the NYS Court of Claims moderated by William T. Little, Esq., President of the Capital District Black and Hispanic Bar Association. Panelists were Court of Claims Judge Michael H. Melkonian, John A Regan, Assistant Counsel to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and Jessica M. Cherry, Counsel to the State Senate Judiciary Committee.

The presentations were informative, interesting, and extremely well-received. Justices Peters, Sconiers and Gonzalez quoted liberally from the Judicial Section's recently released Judicial Diversity Report, noting that the Third Judicial Department lags far behind the rest of the state in the appointment and election of women and minorities to the bench. The atmosphere was electric, with the approximately 80-100 audience members actively engaged, asking pointed questions particularly of the Albany County Party Leader and other political players who served as panelists. [One day following the program the Albany Democratic Party Leader resigned, and shortly thereafter was replaced by an African American woman.]

At the outset of the program, participants were asked to raise their hands if they were interested in pursuing a judicial career. It was wonderful to see so many women and minorities respond in the affirmative. This writer is hopeful that in the not-too-distant future they will be given the opportunity to do so, and that the complexion of the bench in the Third Department will more closely reflect the population it serves. I am pleased that the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee's co-sponsorship of this event, which included such a spirited discussion, valuable insights and well-written materials, will help to ensure that outcome!

Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Polly A. Hoyer, Chair

Tatiana Coffinger, Vice-Chair

Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq. Vice-Chair

Eleanor DeCoursey, Esq., Vice-Chair

Fourth Judicial District Women in the Courts

Chair: *Hon. Polly A. Hoye*

Members: *Tatiana Coffinger, Court Attorney, Warren County; Elena Jaffe Tastensen, Private Attorney, Saratoga County; Eleanor DeCoursey, Private Attorney, Schenectady County*
Counties Served: *Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington*

2014 Meetings

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

Average Attendance: *4*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

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

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *We have had success working with other legal and women's organizations to promote events bringing awareness to gender equality and domestic violence issues.*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

- *Fulton County: October, 8, 2014: Proclamation and Walk to raise awareness of domestic violence (see attached news article); October 16, 2014: Wear Purple Day (Fulton County Courthouse); October 22, 2014: The Yellow Dress, dramatic presentation at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (see attached news article);*
- *Saratoga County: October 11, 2014: 4th Annual Purple Pooch Parade held in Saratoga Springs to bring attention to the role of pets in DV situations and to highlight the Safe Pets Partnership; October, 2014: The Stillwater Police Department collected used, donated cell phones for DV Awareness month.*

Activities for Women's History Month:

None specifically during the designated month, but many planned activities throughout 2015, see below, under "Future Plans".

Essay Contest: *Fulton County: The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association sponsored an essay contest for high school seniors with a scholarship awarded at graduation to the winner. The subject of the essay related to the importance of the right to vote.*

Other Special Events or Activities:

- *Fulton County: August 26, 2014: Women's Equality Day (anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment) was celebrated by recognizing a local woman, Patricia Beck, Publisher of the Leader-Herald Newspaper at an "Equality Award Presentation Garden Party" in Johnstown, NY.*
- *Saratoga County: "Go Red for Women" fundraiser sponsored by the Adirondack Women's Bar Assn.; July 28, 2014: "In Their Shoes" program hosted by Saratoga DV/Rape Crisis; August 15, 2014: Charity Golf Tournament benefitting Saratoga County DV/Rape Crisis;*
- *Warren County: May 5, 2014: Ruby Awards Dinner held in Glens Falls, NY to honor 2 women attorneys for their dedicated work with the AWBA Legal Clinic to Aid Victims of DV (see attached flyer and press release), sponsored by Soroptimist International of the Adirondacks; December 11, 2014: The Bernadette M. Hollis Award was presented to Attorney Rose T. Place at meeting in Glens Falls, NY, in recognition of her services as Attorney for the Child. This award recognizes attorneys who have demonstrated a commitment to protect and promote the rights of children in the legal system.*

Special Event Marketing

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

Who and how many attended? *30 - 60*

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

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium, headquartered in Johnstown, NY, is coordinating a women's history related event each month during 2015, in recognition of Mrs. Stanton's 200th birthday this year. Elizabeth Cady Stanton grew up in Johnstown, NY and her father was a Supreme Court Justice there. Her passion for women's rights was shaped by the injustices she saw in the law at that time. (See attached list of events)

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015? *Anticipate quarterly by either video conference or at least, phone conferencing.*

Concerns

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

Many people, but especially women, continue to be unable to effectively litigate due to inadequate legal aid services. Bar associations are taking a more active role in pro bono work, but there are still many litigants underserved.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Child Care Centers, supervised visitation, and our smaller court staffs upstate do not offer extra help for pro se litigants with the filing of papers.*

Do you see unmet training needs? *No*

Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Programs related to human trafficking; domestic abuse with regard to financial transactions; How to conduct contempt proceedings and enforce orders where a spouse is not complying with court orders to provide for the other in a pending or closed divorce.*

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

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

Collaboration

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

Bar Associations, Domestic Violence Organizations, and women's organizations including the Soroptimist Clubs of Fulton, Schenectady and the Adirondacks; the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *Assistance in obtaining or using videoconferencing*

Local walk raises domestic-violence awareness

By ARTHUR CLEVELAND

The Leader-Herald

JOHNSTOWN — Johnstown Sir Bills junior varsity football team members led the charge Wednesday afternoon as law-enforcement officials and concerned citizens marched through city streets for the 2014 Domestic Violence Awareness Walk.

People walked down West and East Main streets before turning toward the Route 30A arterial and marching by passing cars that honked their horns. Cheers came from the players whenever a car honked.

WALK — On Page 9A

A few facts

Here are some New York state domestic violence facts from the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence:

- Almost 300,000 calls were made to domestic violence and sexual assault hot lines in 2013.

- In 2013, 31,000 assaults by intimate partners were reported to police outside of New York City.

- Choking was charged more than 12,000 times in the state in 2013.



Above, the Johnstown Sir Bills junior varsity football team participates in the Domestic Violence Awareness Walk Wednesday in Johnstown. At right, others participate in the walk. At left, Fulton County District Attorney Louise Sira speaks at the event.

Photos by Arthur Cleveland
The Leader-Herald



Walk raises awareness

Continued from Page 1A

Standing in front of the Fulton County Courthouse, Fulton County District Attorney Louise Sira spoke to the crowd about domestic violence.

"We can't handle our conflicts with our hands and feet," Sira said.

She said Fulton County, in 2013, had 862 reports by police of domestic violence. This year, the number was around 400 by June.

Sira said police are constantly updating their training and the resources available for victims.

Hot lines

Local domestic violence programs and hot lines:

- Family Counseling Center of Fulton County, 725-5300.
- Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties, 842-3384.
- Hamilton County Department of Social Services, (800) 721-8534.



*In honor of
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October 16, 2014 is WEAR PURPLE DAY!!*

*Please show your support in raising awareness by
adding some PURPLE to your day!!*

*A group Photo of all participants will be taken on
the County Court House steps PROMPTLY at
9:00am and will be in the Leader Herald so we are
hoping for a Great turn out for this!! Please Join
Us!!!!*

Photo submitted

WEARING PURPLE

Employees at the Fulton County Office Building pose in the Courthouse on Oct. 16 during national "Wear Purple Day" in recognition of Domestic Violence victims. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Tragic Tale

Dating violence can be deadly

By **ARTHUR CLEVELAND**
The Leader-Herald

After Anna broke up with Rick, he kept harassing her, driving past her home and calling her at all hours.

Eventually, Rick came by and asked Anna to take a car ride so they could talk. Anna got in the car with him. When she refused to take him back, Rick said, "If I can't have you, no one will."

He grabbed her head and struck it against the dashboard of the car, killing her. He then dumped her body in a ditch.

Deana's Educational Theater performer Stacey Fischer, playing the role of Anna, told this fictionalized story, based on true events, during a presentation of "The Yellow Dress" to Mayfield Central School students last week to raise awareness about dating violence.

At one point in the performance, Anna wore a yellow dress, soaked in blood. It was the dress she wore when Rick killed her, she said.

"This is my yellow dress. This is what I looked like when he finished with me. No one is going to rush me to the hospital; they will know I'm dead when they find me. He did such a good job," Anna said.

Programs like the one presented in Mayfield are among the local programs aimed at curbing dating violence in Fulton County.

Louise Sira, district attorney for Fulton County, said the county has high rates of domestic violence.

PLAY — On Page 7A



The Leader-Herald/Arthur Cleveland
Stacey Fischer of Deana's Educational Theater performs a one-woman show, "The Yellow Dress," for students Thursday at Mayfield Central School. The play deals with dating violence through the lens of a victim.

ADIRONDACK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

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

Proudly presents the 5th annual
fundraiser benefiting



You are cordially invited to the fifth annual

Go Red for Women fundraiser on

Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 6-8pm

Hosted at **Javier's** www.javiersny.com
17 Maple Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY

Cost is \$30 for AWBA members AND advance tickets
or \$35 at the door

Proceeds to benefit Go Red for Women!

Sponsored by:

The Adirondack Women's Bar Association,
Teal Becker & Chiaramonte, Javier's,
Craig Investigations Inc, FMBF, The Law
Offices of Peter H. Barry, The Jones Law Firm,
Chicago Title Insurance and more...

Highlights

- ♦ Raffle and silent auction items donated by local businesses
- ♦ Demonstration of Healthy Heart Exercises by Victoria Nye-Cordi of Saratoga Core Fitness
- ♦ Passed hors d'oeuvres
- ♦ 6:00-6:45 open bar featuring beer/wine and Javier's Sangria

RSVP Kara Lais 745-1400 or kil@fmbf-law.com

Event underwritten by:



**Cardiology Associates of
Schenectady**

Soroptimist International
of the Adirondacks

Awards DINNER

Please join us to honor
the recipients of —

Jill O'Sullivan and Jessica Hugabone Vinson



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014

Hiland Golf Club
Haviland Road
Queensbury

Cocktails at 5:30
(cash bar)

Dinner at 7:00

\$50 per person

Reservations by
April 28th

Raffle Item:
iPad Air

Music

Please detach and return with check

Name _____

Phone _____

Number of people attending _____ Total amount enclosed @ \$50 per person \$ _____

Entree selection: (include number of each item for the people in your group)

_____ Prime Rib _____ Chicken Marsala _____ Vegetarian

I am unable to attend but would like to donate to the SIA Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Make checks payable and mail to: SIA, P.O. Box 2043, Glens Falls, NY 12801

Reservations by April 28th

For more information contact:

Dot Clark at 798-5718 or Suzan Fisk at 793-7309



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Soroptimist International of the Adirondacks Award Winners

Soroptimist International of the Adirondacks has announced that it will be presenting the Ruby Award to two of our local attorneys, Jill E. O'Sullivan, Esq. of Fitzgerald Morris Baker Firth, P.C. and Jessica Hugabone Vinson, Esq. of Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes, P.C. for their dedicated work with the Adirondack Women's Bar Association (AWBA) Legal Clinic to Aid Victims of Domestic Violence. In 2010, the AWBA created the Legal Clinic to Aid Victims of Domestic Violence. The first clinic was held on November 2010 and has continued under the leadership of O'Sullivan and Vinson.

Volunteer attorneys from the community meet with individuals referred to the Legal Clinic from the Domestic Violence Project of Catholic Charities, the Warren County Victim Assistance Program and other programs in the community. The individuals are able to meet with the attorneys to ask questions regarding a variety of legal problems which are directly or indirectly related to the domestic violence issues that they face, including divorce, child custody, child support, bankruptcy, foreclosure and landlord-tenant issues. O'Sullivan and Vinson have been advocates for the program and they are regularly invited to speak to organizations about the program. In addition, they have been previously honored for their efforts by the New York State Bar Association as they have received the 2011 Bar Leaders Innovation Award and the 2012 New York State Bar Association President's Pro Bono Service Award for the Fourth Judicial District.

Soroptimist International of the Adirondacks recognizes women in the community who reflect the values of the first federation president of Soroptimist International, Ruby Minar. A ruby is a deep red gemstone associated with wisdom, importance, vitality, strength, vivacity, power and love: all words embodying the strong and compassionate women who are the award recipients. The Soroptimist Ruby Award honors women who have worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work.

An awards dinner will be held on Monday, May 5, 2014 at the Hiland Golf Club. A cash bar will be offered at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and may be purchased until April 28, 2014. For more information, please contact Dot Clark at 798-5718 or Susan Fisk at 793-7309.

Submitted by Tatiana Coffinger, Esq., Soroptimist International of the Adirondacks member

Sat June 6 11-2
Pleasant Square Volunteer Fire Dept -
 Picnic to honor
 Women First Responders
 at Pleasant Square Pavilion

Thurs June 25 at 7
Fulton County Historical Society -
 Program by
 Laurie Kozakiewicz & Samantha Hall-Saladino
 on Women in War:
 From the Daughters of Liberty to the
 Women's Army Corps
 at the Fulton County Museum

July - August Johnstown Library -
 Children's Reading Program on Heroes &
 Adult Reading & Discussion

Sat July 25 at 1- Eclectic Society -
 Wade Wells speaking on
 Molly Brant followed by reception
 at St Johns Episcopal Church

Mon August 24 - ECSHA -
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association -
 Woman of Distinction Award and Reception

Sat Sept 19 GFWC Century Club -
 Tea Party - at the Century Club

Thurs Oct 8 at 6:30 -
SIFC -
Soroptimists International of Fulton County -
 HerStory Trivia Challenge
 at the Eccentric Club -
 Tickets \$5/person -
 \$30 for a table of 6 Cash Bar, Food and Prizes

Nov 6,7,8,13,14,15-
Colonial Little Theatre -
 production of "The Quilters"

Thurs Nov 12 6:30 -8 -
ECSHA -
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association -
 200th Birthday Celebration of Elizabeth
 at FMCC



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



HerStory 2015
 Johnstown and Fulton County
 Celebrations of
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton's
 200th Birthday!

Coordinated By
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Women's Consortium

website www.ECSWC.org
Lizdeclares@ECSWC.com
info@ECSWC.org or call 762-7638

Sat Jan 24 9-1 - Girl Scouts of NENY -
 "Our History is Our Strength"
 at Johnstown Community Center

Sat Feb 28 at 1 Women Democrats -
 Audrey Bowman & Rev Ruby Smith,
 "The Struggles of Black Women in Upstate New York"
 at Trackside Community Center

Sat March 21 8-3-
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium--
 "Our History Is Our Strength " at HFM BOCES
 Lite Breakfast, Lunch, & wonderful workshops

March-April
Sunflower Seeds will be available to residents
 from City Of Johnstown
 -Birthplace of Elizabeth -
 In exchange flowers must be photographed
 & photos sent to the seed company

Sat April 11 at 6 - AAUW-
American Association of University Women -
 "Feminist Stories from Women's Liberation,"
 a film by Jennifer Lee at
 FMCC & discussion with the film maker

Sat May 16 - Luncheon -
Women's Republican Club of Fulton County -
 Laurie Kozakiewicz on Women in Politics:
 Historic Strategies and Challenges
 at Lanzi's on the Lake

Thurs May 28 at 6 -
AAUW-American Association of University Women -
 Samantha Hall-Saladino & Anne Peconie -
 Tour & talk Women Suffrage in Fulton & Montgomery County
 at Elwood Museum - Amsterdam

Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair

Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

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

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

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

2014 Meetings

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

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

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

"Celebrating Karen DeCrow," April 23, 2015, Palace Theatre, Syracuse, NY. The event will include a 15 minute film documentary about Karen's life and her work to break down gender barriers.

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015? *Quarterly*

Educational Programs and Projects

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

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

Collaboration

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

Bar Associations

Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Teresa Johnson, Chair

Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: *Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Supervising Judge, City Courts, Seventh Judicial District*

Members: *Attached*

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

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *January 9, 2014, January 28, 2014, April 7, 2014*

Average Attendance: *8*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

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

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *We highlighted the issue of Human Trafficking in Western New York with a program in April, 2014.*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Month:

Program on Human Trafficking in Western New York

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email, Mail, Flyer, and promoted by Monroe County Bar Association, Rochester Black Bar Association and Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys with their membership.

Who and how many attended?

More than 50 people attended. Attendees included members of law enforcement, probation, community service agencies, government agencies and private attorneys.

Was there any press before or after? *No*

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Women's History Month and we are working on expanding membership in our Committee.

We are working on a Program for April highlighting Courts' Collaboration with the University of Rochester to provide supportive services for women who use the Courts.

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015?

We have six meetings scheduled.

Concerns

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

LGBT issues including interaction with Court personnel

Do you see unmet training needs? *None. Will continue to evaluate.*

Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *It is very difficult to get participation for these programs given restrictive court hours.*

Collaboration

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

Bar Associations

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *It would be helpful if managers would agree that these meetings are important and can be done during normal business day.*

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE MEMBER ROSTER

COUNTY	NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Monroe	Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Chair	Room 6 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, New York 14614 Phone (585) 371-3406 Fax (585) 371-3423 email office: tjohnson@courts.state.ny.us email home: teresadjohnson@mac.com
Monroe	Sara S. Ashcraft, Esq. Family Court Practitioner	150 Allens Creek Rd. Rochester, New York 14618 Phone (585) 442-0540 ext.313 Fax (585) 442-6889 email Sashcraft@asylaw.com
Wayne	Richard DeValk, Esq. Private Practitioner	6 East Main St. Sodus, NY 14551 Phone: (315) 483-6931 Email: rdevalk@lawdhp.com
Monroe	Judy L. DiPaola Principal Office Stenographer Supreme & County Courts	545 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd Rochester, NY 14614 Phone (585) 371-3630 Email: JDIPAOLA@courts.state.ny.us
Monroe	Hon. Gail A. Donofrio	301 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, NY 14614 Phone # (585) 371-3502 Fax: (585) 784-4202 Email: GDONOFRI@courts.state.ny.us
Monroe	Deputy Teresa Madau Monroe County Sheriff's Office	Room 9 First Floor Hall of Justice 99 Exchange Blvd Rochester, New York 14614
Monroe	Hon. Renee Forgens Minarik	NYS Court of Claims 144 Exchange Blvd., Ste. 500 Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: (585) 987-4212 email: rminarik@courts.state.ny.us

Monroe	Sharon Rivaldo Retired Deputy Sheriff	241 Shorewood Drive Webster, NY 14580 email smsenior@bluefrog.com
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Monroe	Sharon Kelly Sayers, Esq. Family Court Practitioner	30 W. Broad St., Ste. 506 Rochester, New York 14614 Phone (585) 454-2320 Fax (585) 454-1612 email: sayers@frontiernet.net
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Ontario	Hon. Elisabeth Toole	Geneva City Court 4067 W. Lake Road, Geneva, NY 14456 Phone (315) 789-4618 Fax (315) 789-1938 Email: apelroni@rochester.rr.com
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Cayuga	Roberta Williams, Esq. Private Practitioner	11 Court St. Auburn, NY 13021 Phone (315) 253-4050 Debbie Robinson (Sec'y.) Fax (315) 253-4223 email drobinson@whmblaw.com email rwilliams@whmblaw.com
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Monroe	Kelly Wolford, Esq. Assistant District Attorney	47 S. Fitzhugh St., Suite 832 Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: (585) 753-4335 Fax: (585) 753-4576 Email: kwolford@monroecounty.gov
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Seneca	Elizabeth Young Chief Clerk	Seneca Supreme & County Courts 48 W. Williams St. Waterloo, NY 13165 Phone (315) 539-7021 Fax (315) 539-7929 email EYOUNG@courts.state.ny.us
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HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WESTERN NEW YORK

Sex Trafficking - Labor Trafficking - Trafficking of Children

A PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING:

**Moderator: Rev. John S. Walker
and:**

Charlotte A. Watson:	Special Projects, Office of Policy & Planning
Dep. Elizabeth Fildes:	Program Director, Erie County Sheriff
Tiffany H. Lee, Esq.:	Assistant U.S. Attorney
Elaine M. Spaul, Esq.:	Executive Director, Center for Youth
Hon. Ellen M. Yacknin:	Rochester City Court Trafficking Part

Monday, April 7, 2014
11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Monroe County Bar Center, 5th Floor
One W. Main St., Rochester, NY 14614

Feel Free to Bring a Brown Bag Lunch

Presented by:

**Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee
Monroe County Bar Association
Rochester Black Bar Association
Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys**

Questions or to R.S.V.P. - 371-3406

Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee

Hon. Jeannette Ogden, Chair

Sharon Thomas, Vice Chair

Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee

Chairs: *Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, NYS Supreme Court and Vice Chair, Sharon Thomas, Chief Clerk, Buffalo City Court*

Members: *attached*

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

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *2/27/14, 3/27/14, 4/30/14, 5/22/14, 7/30/14, 9/16/14, 12/5/14*

Average Attendance: *12 - 14*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *Yes*

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

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:

Our Committee efforts lead to the 8th Judicial District's mandatory gender and racial sensitivity training class for all Court Officers throughout the 8th Judicial District. Court Officers are often the first contact persons with members of the public and bias, conscious or unconscious, impacts not only the perception of fairness and justice but sometimes the actual receipt thereof. This was a major accomplishment for our district which had been prompted by complaints from members of the public who appeared in various courts throughout the district.

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

- *A presentation about domestic violence issues in the home and at school was made to 8 student participants of the Adolescent Diversion Part of Buffalo City Court by Judge Ogden in March of 2014.*
- *The Committee updated and disseminated the attached list of service providers to all employees throughout the 8th judicial district in October of 2014. A presentation by Ms. Mary Travers, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center of Buffalo, NY to provide an update of the expanded services that they are providing through their satellite office in Orchard Park, NY was planned but did not occur due to scheduling difficulties. We plan to have the presentation in 2015. The Committee continues to operate under the premise that every month is Domestic Violence Awareness month.*

Activities for Women's History Month:

Our district wide Biannual Women in the Courts ceremony to rededicate the Appellate Division 4th Department Library Women in the Law Collection of plaques honoring the 2011 and 2013 recipients of the Eighth Judicial District's Women in the Law Award was held on October 22, 2014.

We had 45 attendees honoring the following women: Hon. Joan Bozer, Former Erie County Legislator; Hon. Paula L. Feroletto, Administrative Judge, 8th JD; Dolores Gist, Bail Bond Agent; Belva Lockwood (Posthumous); Hon. Marjorie C. Mix, Family Court Judge, Retired; Christine Nestor, former Chief Clerk, Erie County & NYS Supreme Courts; Captain Kristen M. Neubauer, Niagara County Sheriff's Department; Lori Pettit Rieman, Attorney at Law, Cattaraugus County District Attorney; Veronica Rucker, Senior Court Analyst; Hon. Erin Peradotto, Justice of the Appellate Division 4th Dept.; Mary Beth Scimia, Sr. LAN Administrator; Sandra K. Scruggs, Court Reporter; Hon. Barbara M. Sims, former Buffalo City Court Judge; Kate Stone (Posthumous); Hon. Penny M. Wolfgang, Justice of the NYS Supreme Court

Essay Contest: Our members participate with the Bar Association of Erie County in their annual law day essay and art contest.

Other Special Events or Activities:

- One of the primary Committee goals for 2014 was the enhancement of awareness about issues that impact populations of people within the legal system. A presentation about the Human Trafficking (HT) Court was made by Judge Amy Martoche, who presides over said court. She emphasized the fact that the HT Court is an intervention Court, not a treatment Court. Persons charged with prostitution, predominately young women, are referred to the Court. Many of the participants are or have been victims of domestic violence. The HT Court partners with representatives from police departments, Homeland Security, the FBI and the International Institute. The HT Court is still in its infancy and the Committee agreed to assist in spreading the word about the services offered by the Court. Approximately 15 people participated.*
- The Committee members collaborated with and participated in an Ethnic luncheon in February of 2014 where Court personnel prepared various ethnic dishes and shared their cultural significance with the approximate 85 people in attendance. This was our way of celebrating our diversity and sharing our cultural backgrounds.*
- On April 10, 2014, the Committee co-hosted a Spring Potluck luncheon for members of the 8th JD where a work life assistance power point presentation was shown. The workplace violence prevention policy, sexual harassment policy and procedures and discrimination policy and procedures manuals were electronically distributed to all employees with a reminder of the requirement that they be viewed annually. Approximately 50 people participated.*
- A presentation was made to approximately 72 high school seniors in the court about career opportunities in the legal system as part of the Committee's court to community*

program. Members of the Committee spoke about their positions and how they serve the community through their work in the courts. The students were also informed about the importance of taking civil service exams and scoring well.

- In furtherance of the Committee's efforts to promote diversity and inclusion within the court system, three members of the committee conducted civil service exam preparation trainings at the True Bethel Baptist church in Buffalo. They also established a relationship with the State University of New York at Buffalo's Educational Opportunity Center for civil service exam preparation. Approximately 25 people participated.*
- A presentation about court interpreters was made by Ana Brignoni, the interpreter in charge of court interpreting services for Western New York. She discussed the selection and required training as well as the pros and cons of call in interpreting services. Approximately 15 people participated.*
- We joined the NYS Association of Women Judges in the collection and contribution toiletries for women in prison during the Christmas season. Approximately 25 people participated.*

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email

Was there any press before or after? There was press coverage for the high school presentation.

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

- Host our biannual Lamplighter luncheon to recognize the contributions of women to the Court system throughout the 8th JD in June of 2015.*
- Continue our court to community program with a program designed to address jury participation; explaining the role and relevance trial and grand jurors.*
- Conduct a program that provides information about interpreters for the hearing impaired.*
- Examine issues faced by Immigrant, Native American, homosexual women and women veterans, and the cultural challenges that they face when seeking services in the Courts in the Western New York.*

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015?

We plan to meet at least 6 times during the year. The first meeting is scheduled for 2/25/15 and on other days in March, April, May, September and December.

Concerns

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

- *Greater inclusion of minorities and women in decision making positions.*
- *Restoring faith in the legal system generally, particularly in the criminal justice system.*
- *Affording opportunities for civil legal services for indigent women and minorities.*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *We see the lack of child care centers and supervised visitation areas as issues that adversely affect women interacting with the court system.*

Do you see unmet training needs? *We realize that existing training program requirements may not be met due to a shortage of resources.*

Educational Programs and Projects

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

- *Programs on hearing and visually impaired litigants in order to enhance their access to the courts.*
- *Programs addressing appropriate interactions with women suffering from a mentally disease or disability.*
- *Programs addressing unconsciousness and implicit bias and its impact on litigants with the legal system generally and the court system in particular.*
- *Programs addressing adolescent females caught in the school to prison pipeline and how perceptions of stakeholders in the juvenile and criminal justice system can be changed.*
- *Training in the area of cultural competence for court staff.*

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

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

Collaboration

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

Bar Association of Erie County; Minority Bar Association of Western New York; Cattaraugus Bar Association; Women Lawyers of Western NY; Women's Bar Association of WNY; State University of New York at Buffalo Law School; NYS Association of Women Judges

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *With Continued support of programs, access to resources and technical assistance to enable us to share our messages with larger audiences*

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

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

Veronica Rucker	Senior Court Analyst Erie Supreme/County Courts	VRUCKER@courts.state.ny.us
Hon. Robert Russell Jr.	Judge - Buffalo City Court	RRUSSELL@courts.state.ny.us
Sheila Weir Schwanekamp, Esq.	Court Attorney Referee	SSCHWANE@courts.state.ny.us
Lori Shurilla	Principal Office Assistance Cattaraugus/Family Courts	LSHURILL@courts.state.ny.us
Sharon Thomas, Vice Chair	Chief Clerk - Buffalo City Court	STHOMAS@courts.state.ny.us
Marie Villari	Principal Admin Assistance- Personnel	MVILLARI@courts.state.ny.us
Colleen Wagner	Chief Clerk - Lockport City Court	CJWAGNER@courts.state.ny.us
Hon. John Ward	Judge - Chautauqua County Court	JWARD@courts.state.ny.us
Oliver Young, Esq.	Principal Court Attorney Supreme /County Courts	OYOUNG@courts.state.ny.us

OCTOBER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
IN THE 8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

October 2014

In recognition of October Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the 8th Judicial District Resource Coordinators in the Domestic Violence Courts and the Integrated Domestic Violence Courts have reached out to the domestic violence victim service providers in their respective counties and have provided updated information on these services in all of the courthouses in their counties to be available for court employees as well as the public. This article summarizes each Resource Coordinator's outreach efforts and lists domestic violence victim services that are available in your communities.

Allegany County and Wyoming County-

Kelly Buckley Sterner- Resource Coordinator for the Allegany County and Wyoming County IDV Courts has reached out to all victim advocates in both counties for updated victim services information to distribute to the Supreme and County Courts, Family Courts and Town and Village Courts. All programs have experienced changes in funding and specific services that will be reflected in these documents. Additionally, the victim service agencies state that the new online Family Offense petition program is working well.

Kelly recently met with ACCORD Corporation, Cattaraugus County Community Action and the advocate from the Allegany County DA's office to discuss funding changes and potential changes to Allegany County victim services. The agencies advise that victim services for litigants in the courts will remain the same.

The Allegany County and Wyoming County courthouses have SAVIN, Vine, Address Confidentiality Program, and local victim service program information posted in courthouse waiting areas and restrooms.

Chautauqua County-

Michelle Little- Resource Coordinator for the Chautauqua County IDV Court and Jamestown Domestic Violence Court sent domestic violence victim advocacy resource information to the City, Town and Village Courts in Chautauqua County. She also sent out a "refresher" to the courts of how to identify cases that are eligible for transfer to the IDV Court.

Salvation Army victim advocates are connected with City, Supreme and Family Courts and this agency's information is present in each of these courthouses for court personnel and the public to access.

Michelle also spoke with Salvation Army staff and Project Crossroads staff (Jamestown Police Department DV advocate) about what they have planned during October Domestic Violence

Awareness Month and has advised the city, town and village courts of this information.

Erie County-

Colleen Gibbons- Resource Coordinator for the Erie County IDV Court and Erie County Felony DV Court has contacted victim service providers in Erie County and replenished information from these providers and the Family Justice Center of Erie County for all Erie County Supreme, County, Family and Buffalo City court buildings. Colleen is also distributing all of the information in the courthouses and ladies rooms in the courthouses.

Colleen is discussing the IDV Court and Felony DV Court at the Cornerstone Manor Shelter for Women on October 31st.

Norma Potter- Resource Coordinator for Buffalo City Domestic Violence Court is working with Presiding Judge Amy Martoche is organizing the Domestic Violence court's upcoming Stakeholder meeting. She is also working with Resource Coordinator Colleen Gibbons in distributing victim service information throughout the courthouses in Erie County.

Genesee County and Orleans County-

Sarah Morris- Resource Coordinator for Genesee County IDV Court and Orleans County IDV Court has contacted county domestic violence service providers in both counties and she is distributing information from these agencies in the Supreme and County Courts, Family Courts, City Courts and the town and village courts in each county. The Genesee County victim service provider is the YWCA of Genesee County and the Orleans County victim service provider is the Orleans County DSS Domestic Violence Program.

Niagara County-

Lisa Elibol- Resource Coordinator for Niagara County IDV Court has contacted the victim service providers in Niagara County and has distributed information on domestic violence and the victim service providers in the Supreme and County Courts, Family Courts and City Courts in Niagara County.

If you have any questions concerning domestic violence victim resources in your county, please contact the providers listed below.

Allegany County:

ACCORD Corporation, Victim Services – 24 hour Hotline# 1-800-593-5322
ACCORD Corporation Main Office – (585) 268-7605

Allegany County DA's Office – Shannon Ozzella- advocate: 585-268-9725
ozzells1@alleganyco.com

Cattaraugus Community Action- 24 hour Hotline# 1-888-945-3970

Cattaraugus County:

Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. 24 hour Hotline# 1-888-945-3970

25 Jefferson Street ·
Salamanca, NY 14779 ·
Business Phone: (716)945-1041

Chautauqua County:

Salvation Army- 24 Hotline # 800-252-8748

Jamestown, NY 14702-0368 ·
Business Phone: (716)661-3894

Erie County:

24 hour hotline response for Buffalo and Erie County- (716) 862-HELP (4357)

24 hour response for shelter- (716) 884-6000

Child and Family Services' Haven House- (716) 884-6000

Crisis Services of Buffalo- (716) 834-3131

Hispanics United- (716) 856-7110

Family Justice Center of Erie County-

locations- Buffalo- 237 Main Street, 14th Floor, Buffalo, N.Y. - (716) 558-SAFE (7233)

Amherst- 330 North Forest, Amherst, N.Y. (716) 634-4309

Orchard Park- 4383 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park, N.Y. (716) 662-0259

International Institute of Buffalo- (716) 883-1900 ext. 320

YWCA of the Tonawandas- (716) 692-5643

Kidstrong Program at YWCA of Tonawandas- support group for children exposed to family violence - (716) 692-5580

Genesee County:

YWCA of Genesee County- contact Cindy Earl- (585) 343-7573

Niagara County:

Family and Children's Services' Passages Program- 24 hour Hotline no.- (716) 285-6984

Niagara County Sheriff's Department- Advocate Susan LaRose - (716) 438-3301

YWCA of Niagara- 24 hour hotline number (716) 433-6716

YWCA of the Tonawandas- (716) 692-5643

Orleans County:

Orleans County DSS Domestic Violence Program- DeAnne Corke (585) 589-3159 and after hours number is (585) 589-5527

Wyoming County:

Domestic Violence Project: Brenda Stowell: Hotline# 1-585-786-8904

Brenda.stowell@dfa.state.ny.us

Crime Victims Program Coordinator – Colleen Marvel: (585) 786-8846, (585) 786-4036

cmarvel@wymomingco.net

N.Y.S. Spanish Speaking - 24 hour Hotline 1-800-942-6908



The Justices of the
Appellate Division, Fourth Department
and
the Eighth Judicial District
Gender and Racial Fairness Committee
cordially invite you to a ceremony to
rededicate the Appellate Division Library's
expanded Women in the Law Collection
and to unveil the plaque honoring
the 2011 and 2013 recipients for the
Eighth Judicial District's
Women in the Law Award.

The ceremony will be held
Wednesday, October 22, 2014
at 3:00 p.m. in the Atrium
of the M. Dolores Denman Courthouse
Rochester, New York

Refreshments will follow the ceremony.
Please RSVP to the
Honorable E. Jeannette Ogden (716) 845-2647

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair

Hon. Allen Hochberg, Vice-Chair

Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

Chair(s): *Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair; Hon. Allen Hochberg, Co-Chair*

Members: *Attached*

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

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *10/15/14, 12/01/14, 02/24/15*

Average Attendance: *20*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *Yes*

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

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

The committee sponsored two programs. A CLE seminar, "Same Sex Marriage: The Law and the Application," was co-sponsored with Pace University Law School, the Pace Women's Justice Center and the Westchester Women's Bar Association. The second program, "Welcome to Family Court," was co-sponsored with Pace University Law School, the Pace Women's Justice Center, the Westchester Women's Bar Association and Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.

Activities for Women's History Month:

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

Essay Contest:

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

Other Special Events or Activities:

Local bar association contributed to the monetary prizes which were awarded at a breakfast reception held in the courthouse on May 2, 2014. The Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman participated in a ceremony honoring the winners of the contest.

Special Event Marketing

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

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

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

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

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

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015? *3-4 committee meetings*

Concerns

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

Pro bono representation in matrimonial disputes

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

Do you see unmet training needs? *Judicial education refresher training*

Educational Programs and Projects

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

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

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real time on your desktop computer? *No*

Collaboration

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

Bar Associations, Colleges, Domestic Violence Organizations, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *Program ideas*

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Executive Director
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Judge, NYS Court of Claims
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Rye, NY 10580

Hon. Thomas H. Scuccimarra
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Special Projects Coordinator
Unified Court System
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Eliza Scheibel

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Administrative Judge
Ninth Judicial District
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Hon. Mary Smith
Justice of the Supreme Court
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White Plains, NY 10601

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

Susan Papacostas

SEND EMAIL

Robi Schlaff, Director
Westchester Office for Women

SEND EMAIL

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

Suzanna Novak

SEND EMAIL



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

are pleased to host a CLE Program:

Same Sex Marriage: The Law and the Application

2.5 CLE CREDITS

FACULTY:

Adrienne Orbach, Esq., The Law Offices of Rosenthal and Markowitz, LLP

Steven J. Mandel, Esq., The Law Offices of Steven J. Mandel

Natanya L. Briendel, Esq., The Pace Women's Justice Center

DATE: Thursday April 10, 2014

PLACE: Pace University School of Law Moot Court Room

TIME: Moderate Means Panel Meeting

5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

A light dinner will be provided to all participants of the Pace Women's Justice Center Moderate Means Panel

CLE Program

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

FEE: Fee waived for participants of the Pace Women's Justice Center Moderate Means Panel. Approval of CLE credit is in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 2.5 Practice credits. Pace Law School Center for Continuing Legal Education is an accredited provider of CLE credits in New York. Pace Law School Alumni \$100.00; Lawyers \$125.00. Scholarships are available.

REGISTRATION: www.law.pace.edu/ccle

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

The opinions expressed by any program presenter are the presenter's own, and do not reflect the official position of the sponsoring organizations.

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

are pleased to host a CLE Program:

Welcome to Family Court

DATE: November 10, 2014

PLACE: Pace University School of Law Moot Court Room

TIME: Moderate Means Panel Meeting 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

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

FEE: Fee waived for participants of the Pace Women's Justice Center Moderate Means Panel. Approval of CLE credit is in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of TBD Practice credits. Pace Law School Center for Continuing Legal Education is an accredited provider of CLE credits in New York. Pace Law School Alumni \$100.00; Lawyers \$125.00. Scholarships are available.

REGISTRATION: www.law.pace.edu/ccle

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

The opinions expressed by any program presenter are the presenter's own, and do not reflect the official position of the sponsoring organizations.



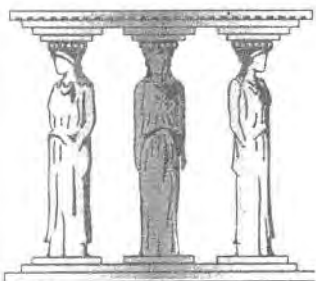
ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



PHOTO SUPPLIED

THE NINTH Judicial District's Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts recognized winners of its annual essay contest in celebration of Women's History Month at a recent breakfast. First and second place winners, respectively, in the freshman/sophomore category were **Phoebe Van Essche**, from The Master's School in Dobbs Ferry, and **Sebastian Naibaho** from Iona Preparatory School in New Rochelle. **Chantal Espailat** from the Nellie A. Thornton High School in Mount Vernon was first in the junior/senior category, and **John Buzzard**, also from Iona Prep, was second. Pictured, left to right, are **Lucia Chioc-**

chio, president-elect of the Westchester Women's Bar Association; **Julie Kattan**, past president of the New Rochelle Bar Association; winners Naibaho, Van Essche, and Buzzard; Court of Claims Judge **Terry Jane Ruderman**, chairman of the committee, and **Lisa Bluestein**, president of the Westchester Women's Bar. Espailat did not attend the breakfast. The bar groups were among those who contributed to the event's cash prizes. Contestants were asked to write a letter to the editor on a district attorney's proposal to let women finish their criminal sentences at home.



WWBA news

Westchester Women's Bar Association

JUNE 2014

www.wwbany.org

GENDER FAIRNESS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS CELEBRATED

Lisa M. Bluestein

On May 2, 2014, the Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness congratulated and celebrated the Gender Fairness Essay Contest Winners at a breakfast ceremony. After introductions and greetings by Hon. Terri Jane Ruderman and Hon. Francis Nicolai, the winners read their essays aloud to a full audience of family, friends, members of the judiciary, and representatives of the WWBA, WWBA Foundation, and many other local bar associations. This year's First Place winners were: Phoebe Van Essche of The Master's School, Freshman/Sophomore Category, and Chantal Espaillat of Nellie A. Thornton High School, Junior/Senior Category. The Second Place winners were: Sebastian Naibaho of Iona Preparatory School, Freshman/Sophomore Category, and John Buzzard of Iona Preparatory High School, Junior/Senior Category.



Lucia Chiocchio, Julie S. Kattan, Sebastian Naibaho, Phoebe Van Essche, John Buzzard, Hon. Terri Jane Ruderman, Lisa M. Bluestein

Gender Fairness Essay Contest Winners Celebrated

from page 1

This year's essay topic was: "You have read in your local newspaper that the District Attorney has proposed a program to let women prisoners finish serving their sentences at home because women:

- (1) are less likely to commit violent crimes;
- (2) naturally nurture their families; and
- (3) are more necessary than men to be at home for the integrity, continuity and health of the family.

Write a letter to the editor either supporting or opposing this program." ▀



Hon. Terri Jane Ruderman

GENDER FAIRNESS ESSAY CONTEST 2014

BY SUZY I. HICKSON, ESQ.

Gender Fairness Committee Celebrates Women's History Month



From left: Hon. Thomas H. Scuccimarra, Sebastian Naibaho, Phoebe Van Essche, John Buzzard and Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman

THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts recognized the winners of its Annual High School Essay Contest at a breakfast held on May 2, 2014, in celebration of Women's History Month. Court of Claims Judge Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair of the committee, presented the awards.

The generosity of various professional organizations and bar associations, including the Westchester County Bar Association and the Westchester County Bar Foundation, enabled the committee to award cash prizes to the students.

In the freshman/sophomore category, Phoebe Van Essche, from

The Master's School won first prize and Sebastian Naibaho from Iona Preparatory School won second prize. In the junior/senior category, Chantal Espaillet from the Nellie A. Thornton High School won first prize and John Buzzard from Iona Preparatory School won second prize.

The students read their essays to the more than 60 assembled guests. Those in attendance included Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, Thomas A. Dickerson; Court of Claims Judges Thomas Scuccimarra and O. Peter Sherwood; and State Supreme Court Justices Lester Adler, Lawrence Ecker, Francis Nicolai, Mary Smith

and Charles Wood.

Also in attendance were representatives of the professional organizations and bar associations including, from the Westchester County Bar Association, President Jody Fay, and Past President Jerold Ruderman.

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

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

Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Marian Rose Tinari, Chair

Cynthia Vargas, Chair

The Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Chairs: *Hon. Marian Rose Tinari and Cynthia S. Vargas, Esq., Attorney at Law*

Members: *Attached*

Counties Served: *Suffolk*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *02-27-14, 04-21-14, and 10-29-14*

Average Attendance: *15 – 20 members*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *Yes*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *No*

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *The Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts' greatest success in 2014 was the Women's History Month event. The program highlighted the tremendous efforts made by the three honorees in securing access to justice and free legal services to litigants in Suffolk County. The honorees were Patricia E. Salkin, Esq., Dean and Professor of Law at Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Demetri Jones, Esq., Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District, serving as the Deputy Chief of the Long Island Crime Unit, and Maria Dosso, Esq., Director of Communications and Volunteer Services at Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc.*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

Although no event was held in October 2014 for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, there is an established sub-committee dedicated to raising awareness about this issue. This sub-committee is in the process of coordinating a Continuing Legal Education tentatively on the topic of strangulation which will take place in October of 2015.

Activities for Women's History Month:

A Women's History Month Program was held on March 21, 2014 to celebrate women who have made significant contributions to providing access to justice and pro bono services.

Other Special Events or Activities:

The Breast Cancer Screening Van Program provided free screenings in Riverhead on August 28, 2014 and in Central Islip on October 7, 2014. Members of the committee provided literature

about breast cancer and prostate cancer to members of the public to coincide with this event. A heart health sub-committee also meets to coordinate awareness activities. Additionally, the Committee organized Thanksgiving and Christmas Drives to benefit the families visiting our Children's Center.

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email, Flyer, and distribution of literature by local bar associations

Who and how many attended?

Attendance at the Women's History Month was over 100.

Was there any press before or after? Yes

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Heart Health Mobile Screening Program - Date TBD; Free Mammogram Screening - Date TBD

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015? *Bi-Monthly for 2015-2016 term*

Concerns

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

Continuing issues, life-work balance, child care center, and women's health issues

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

Do you see unmet training needs? *Possibly more focused assistance on domestic violence programs, although the Center for Court Innovation has been extremely helpful in that regard.*

Educational Programs and Projects

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

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

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

Collaboration

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

Bar Associations, Colleges, and Domestic Violence Organizations

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *Continued support through educational programs and assistance in formulating areas of focus for our local organization*

Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts Membership List

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Court Attorney Referee
District Administrative Judge's Office
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Cynthia G. Vargas, Esq. – Co-Chair
Attorney at Law
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CHARACTER, COURAGE, AND COMMITMENT

HON. C. RANDALL HINRICHS
SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

AND

THE SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO A

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

CELEBRATING WOMEN WHO HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS
TO PROVIDING ACCESS
TO JUSTICE AND PRO BONO SERVICES

HONORING

DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW
TOURO LAW CENTER
PATRICIA E. SALKIN

ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
EASTERN DISTRICT
DEPUTY CHIEF LONG ISLAND CRIME UNIT
DEMETRI JONES

NASSAU/SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES
DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES
AND COMMUNICATION
MARIA DOSSO

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014 AT 2:00 PM
JOHN P. COHALAN, JR. COURTHOUSE
CENTRAL JURY ROOM
CENTRAL ISLIP

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM



**THE SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE'S
WOMEN IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE**

PRESENTS

HEART HEALTH 2015

**FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS ON THE
ST. FRANCIS MOBILE COMMUNITY OUTREACH BUS**

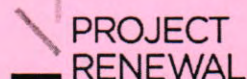


**WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 4th, 2015
CENTRAL ISLIP - JOHN P. COHALAN COURT COMPLEX
OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE 10AM-2PM**

**THE SCREENINGS INCLUDE A BRIEF CARDIAC HISTORY, SIMPLE BLOOD
TEST FOR CHOLESTEROL AND DIABETES WITH APPROPRIATE PATIENT
EDUCATION AND REFERRALS AS NEEDED FOR CLIENTS ABOVE THE
AGE OF 18.**



Early Breast Cancer Detection Can Save Your Life
Have a Mammogram N O W!!



SCANVAN

MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY

**JUDGES and LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT
(JALBCA)**

Announce a

FREE MAMMOGRAM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014

Starting at 9:00 a.m.

Look for the mammography SCAN VAN at

SUFFOLK COUNTY FAMILY COURT HOUSE

400 Carleton Avenue, Central Islip 11722

Sponsored by Suffolk County Women's Bar Association

APPOINTMENT IS NECESSARY

Please call 1-800-564-6868

For women 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in the past year.
No cost to you. However, if you have insurance please bring the information with you.

Generously Funded By

Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA)

Call
1-800
564-6868

Call
1-800
564-6868

Call
1-800
564-6868

Call
1-800
564-6868

Call
1-800
564-6868

Call
1-800
564-6868

Hagase una mamografia hoy mismo



SCANVAN

MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY

**JUDGES and LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT
(JALBCA)**

Anuncia

MAMMOGRAFIA GRATIS

MARTES, 7 de OCTUBRE del 2014

Empezando a las 9:00 a.m.

Busque la unidad movil de mamografia en frente de

SUFFOLK COUNTY FAMILY COURT HOUSE

400 Carleton Avenue, Central Islip 11722

Es necesario hacer una cita

Por favor llameal 1-800-564-6868

Para mujeres de 40 anos en adelante que no se han hecho una mamografia desde hace un ano.
El servicio es sin costo alguno. Si usted tiene seguro de salud, por favor traiga su tarjeta a la cita

Lea la parte de atras para mas informacion

Este programa es generosamente patrocinado por

Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA)

llamar
1-800
564-6868

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llamar
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1-800
564-6868

THE FULL COURT PRESS
Suffolk County Courts/10th Judicial District

November 2014

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION

Women in the Courts Committee Celebrates Women's History Month

**Celebrating Women Who have Made Significant Contributions to Providing Access to
Justice and Pro Bono Services**

On Friday, March 21, 2014, at the John P. Cohalan, Jr. Courthouse, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee celebrated the achievements of women who have provided access to justice and pro bono services with a program honoring Patricia E. Salkin, Esq., Dean and Professor of Law at Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Demetri Jones, Esq., Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District, serving as the Deputy Chief of the Long Island Crime Unit, and Maria Dosso, Esq., Director of Communications and Volunteer Services at Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc.

The program included the Presentation of the Colors by New York State Courts Color Guard, Suffolk County and a welcome and introduction of the honorees by Suffolk County District Administrative Judge C. Randall Hinrichs. Music was provided by The Hamptones, a group of dedicated young students in grades four through eight at Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School in Southampton, led by Music Director Joseph Basar.

The event was coordinated by the Women in the Courts Co-Chairs Marian Tinari, Esq. and Cynthia S. Vargas, Esq. Hon. Isabel E. Buse served as the event Co-Chair and Marta M. Rogers, Esq. created and assembled the program for the event. The program highlighted the tremendous efforts made by the honorees in securing access to justice and free legal services to litigants in Suffolk County. Their tireless work on behalf of the most vulnerable populations will have a lasting impact in our communities.



COME JOIN THE COHALAN COURT



CHILDREN'S CENTER



FOR A

Bagels and Books Breakfast

On

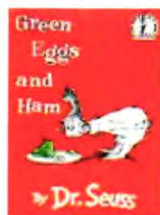
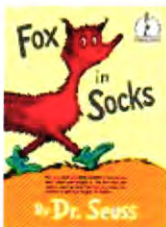
Thursday, October 9th at 9AM

At

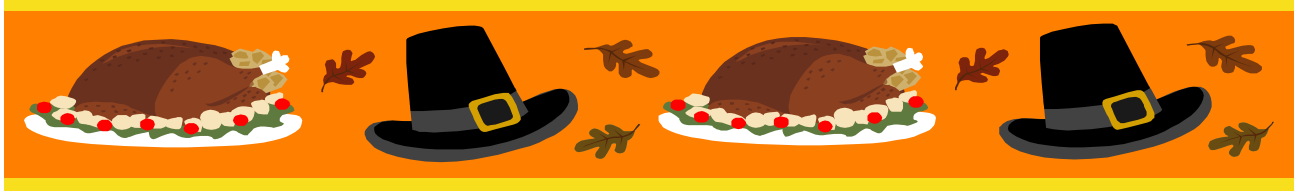
District Court Children's Center- Room A236

400 Carleton Ave., Central Islip

The theme of this Breakfast will be *Dr. Seuss makes Reading fun*. A donation of a Dr. Seuss book would be greatly appreciated. Please join us for bagels and coffee as we enjoy the world of Dr. Seuss, and giving children the gift of reading.



You're never too old, too wacky, too wild to pick up a book and read to a child.
Dr. Seuss



The Cohalan Court Children's Center is Having a Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Food Drive will be from October 14th
thru November 12th

Suggested Items Are:

Gift Cards for the Purchase of Turkeys
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Sweet Potatoes
Pasta /Sauce
Paper Plates
Instant Pudding/Jell-O
Cranberry Sauce/Apple Sauce
Apple Juice/Cider

Coffee/Tea
Cookies
Cake Mix/Frosting
Napkins
Canned Vegetables
Parmalat Boxed Milk
Turkey Gravy
Canned Soups

Donation Boxes will be located throughout the Court Building.
Your generosity will help many families have a
Happy Thanksgiving!!!!



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

Hon. Richard Lee Price, Chair

Hon. Josephine Bastone, Vice-Chair

Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District

Chair(s): *Justice Richard Lee Price, Chair and Hon. Josephine M. Bastone, Vice Chair*

Members: *The Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District draws its members from every level of the court community, including bar associations, advocacy and prosecution agencies which service or appear before the courts, the Bronx Borough President's Office, the County Clerk's Office, and each of the various courts in the Bronx. The Committee was created 23 years ago in response to recommendations of the Chief Judge's Committee on Gender Bias.*

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, The Bronx Probation Department and social services advocates. (See members list & stationary annexed hereto.)

Counties Served: *Bronx*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *February 4, 2014, May 12, 2014, June 30, 2014, October 1, 2014 and January 21, 2015 (*Note: We also held various subcommittee meetings during the course of the year to set up programs such as Women's History Month and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, etc.).*

Average Attendance: *10 - 15*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *No*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

The name of the program was: "Trafficking...Court...Criminal or Victim?" Our presenters at the event were Charlotte Weber, L.M.S.W, Judge Shari R. Michels and Judge Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick (Flyer and e-mail description annexed hereto.)

Activities for Women's History Month:

In recognition of Women's History Month, the Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District presented its 15th annual awards program on Thursday, April 10, 2014, from

12:45 to 2:30 p.m., in the Rotunda of the Bronx County Building, at 161st Street and the Grand Concourse.

This year our committee decided to give a special Outstanding Service Award to a Senior Court Officer who always went over above the call of duty for our committee. We also presented the EVOLVE Award, which was created to recognize outstanding female high school students who have demonstrated a unique ability to rise above daunting circumstances in their lives, to three young women. In addition, we awarded certificates to 10 Women of Distinction, court system employees who have impressed the Committee by their job performance, or because they have overcome odds with supreme grace.

(Flyer and program annexed hereto.)

Other Special Events or Activities:

- *"Women and Men and Money: Taking Charge of Your Financial Future "*
Discussion led by Gary Schwartz of the Madison Planning Group., Inc. The event took place Monday, April 28, 2014, 1:00 - 2:00 P.M., Bronx Hall of Justice. (Flyer and program annexed hereto.)
- *In conjunction with The Columbia Society, Inc., we had a very well received special event program concerning Retirement Benefits on Thursday, December 4, 2014 held at 851 Grand Concourse with a video feed to Bronx Hall of Justice. This program focused primarily on court employees who fall in tier 3 and 4. Marsha Miles of the New York State Comptroller's Office was the speaker. (Flyer and program annexed hereto.)*

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Mail, Flyer, Our events were advertised via flyers posted throughout the various Bronx Courthouses, e-mails to court personnel, press releases to various news organizations, etc.

Who and how many attended? Approximately 200

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

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Our plans for 2015 include: The Women's History Month Program, Domestic Violence Program, Food and Clothing Drives, Gender Fairness on Film Series, a fashion show for those women trying to get back into the

workforce, probable CLE programs and dissemination of materials on trafficking. Also, we intend to continue Health, Retirement and Welfare program(s).

Concerns

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2015?
Understanding and sensitivity must continue.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Child Care Centers - We have a need for child care center/facility in the court buildings.*

Educational Programs and Projects

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

Our Co-chair, Hon. Josephine M. Bastone is the MCLE liaison to the Judicial Institute from the Bronx County Courts. Video-simulcasts of Judicial Institute lectures are offered throughout the year, as well as the occasional live lecture sponsored by the Gender Fairness Committee or put on by some of the court personnel. Suggestions for future lectures include: Updates on the prosecution of domestic violence cases, the impact of cultural differences on the treatment of women in the United States, trafficking, foreclosure issues, etc.

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

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

Collaboration

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

Bar Associations, Colleges, Domestic Violence Organizations, Sexual Assault Organizations, and others on the attached list.

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee?

The NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts provides ideas and program suggestions for our review and implementation. As in past years, we have an urgent need for monetary contributions in order to continue putting on our programs and present additional innovative events. However, the decrease in funding of our programs by OCA is having a serious deleterious effect on these events. We appreciate the ideas and seeing the programs of other committees.

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE '15

Hon. Sharon Aarons
Bronx Supreme Court - Civil Term

Sgt. Barbara Anel
Command Operations - Criminal Term

Ms. Tania Antero
Court Interpreter

Hon. Josephine M. Bastone, **Vice Chair**
Court Attorney-Referee Civil Supreme

Ms. Laura Bisignano
Court Reporter - Civil Term

Ms. Yvette Brownridge
Court Liaison Officer
NYC Dept. of Probation

Ms. Carol Brumley
Court Analyst, Jury Department

Ms. Sherry Callwood
Bronx Borough President's Office

Lisa M. Carrasquillo, Esq. - NYC Department of Education

SCO Shantel Castro
Bronx Housing Court

Ms. Joan Clodd
Administrative Aid to Administrative Judge - Criminal Term

Hon. Bonnie Cohen-Gallet
Bronx Family Court - Referee

ADA Maria Cortese

Judge Tandra Dawson - Family Court

Ms. Betty Dominicci
Senior Court Interpreter

Ms. Darlene Dove
Principal Secretary to Administrative Judge - Criminal Term

Monica Dula, Esq.
The Legal Aid Society

SCO Sherron Durham
Civil Supreme Court

Hon. Michelle Foggie
Chief Clerk
Bronx County Hall of Justice

Hon. Earnestine Glover
Deputy Chief Clerk
Bronx Surrogates Court

Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez
Acting Supreme Court Justice - Matrimonial Part

Hon. Aurelia Greene
Deputy Bronx Borough President

Justice Wilma Guzman
Supreme Court Justice - Civil Term

Judge Arlene H. Hahn - Housing Court

Ms. Esther Kelly
Bureau Chief, Matrimonial

Capt. Holly Kenn
Bronx Supreme Court - Criminal Division

ADA Sheryl Konigsberg

Hon. Sue Levy
Bronx Family Court - Referee

Ms. Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman
Principal Court Analyst/Trainer

Eileen Malunowicz, Esq. (President - BWBA)
Legal Aid Society (Juvenile Rights Division)

Robyn Mar, Esq.
The Bronx Defenders

Justice La Tia W. Martin - Matrimonial Part

ADA Marisol Martinez-Alonso

Judge Shari R. Michels - Anti Trafficking Part

Deidra R. Moore, Esq.

Major Ostacio Negrón
Bronx Supreme Court - Civil Division

Justice Barbara Newman - Criminal Term

Hon. Tracy Pardo
Chief Clerk
Bronx Supreme Court, Civil Division

Hon. Richard Lee Price, **Chair**
Bronx Supreme Court, Criminal Division

Sandra Prowley, Esq.

Charlene Pulakos, Esq.
Court Attorney to Deputy Administrative Judge Eugene Olivier
Supreme Court Criminal Term

Ms. Lorraine Ramsey
Court Reporter

Judge Gayle P. Roberts
Bronx Family Court

Mr. Anthony Robinson
Supervisor - Building Maintenance/Custodian

Major Jose Rodriguez
Bronx County Hall of Justice, Criminal Division

Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick - Criminal Court

Ms. Terri J. Roman, LCSW
Project Director - Bronx Domestic Violence Complex

Laurie E. Rosen, Esq.

Ms. Emily Sanchez
Secretary to Justice D. Massaro - Criminal Term

Ms. Bonnie Schnapper
Secretary to Justice Richard Lee Price - Criminal Term

Jennifer Uhrowczik, Esq.
The Bronx Defenders

Ms. Lorraine Venturella
Bronx Supreme Court - Civil Division

ADA Caren Yukelson

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York

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



265 East 161st Street, 934
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT E. TORRES
Administrative Judge - Criminal Term

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
Chair

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

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON
Administrative Judge - Civil Term

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice -Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Sharon Aarons
Barbara Anel
Tania Antero
Laura Bisignano
Yvette Brownridge
Carol Brumley
Sherry Callwood
Lisa Carrasquillo
Shantel Castro
Joan Clodd
Bonnie Cohen-Gallet
Maria Cortese
Hon. Tandra Dawson
Betty Dominici
Darlene Dove
Monica Dula
Sherron Durham
Michelle Foggie
Earnestine Glover
Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez
Hon. Aurelia Greene
Hon. Wilma Guzman
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Karen Hughes
Esther Kelly
Capt. Holly Kenn
Sheryl Konigsberg
Hon. Sue Levy
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Eileen Malunowicz
Robyn Mar
Hon. La Tia W. Martin
Marisol Martinez-Alonso
Susan McPartland
Hon. Shari R. Michels
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Caren Yukelson

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

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

DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2014

RE: OCTOBER 22, 2014 PROGRAM

The Gender Fairness Committee of the 12th Judicial District, in conjunction with The Bronx Women's Bar Association, sponsored its annual Domestic Violence Workplace Education Day program, entitled "Trafficking Court: Criminal or Victim?" on Wednesday, October 22, 2014, in Assembly Room 691 of the Bronx Hall of Justice.

Without the financial support of the Bronx County Supreme Court and the Office of Administration, we would not have been able to sponsor this free MCLE program on domestic violence. As evident from the standing room only crowd of 122 people, this event was needed and welcomed by the court community, attorneys, resource organizations, etc.

Our speakers this year were J. Shari R. Michels; Charlotte Weber, L.M.S.W.; and J. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick, with opening and closing by, respectively, Josephine M. Bastone, Supervising Referee, Mortgage Foreclosure Conference Part, and J. Richard Lee Price, Supreme Court Justice.

Committee members Emily Sanchez, Bonnie Schnapper, Darlene Dove-Malave, and Yvette Brownridge were instrumental on the day of the event in set up, clean up, MCLE attendance, and ribbon distribution. Others assisting in the planning of the program were J. Doris Gonzalez, Eileen Malunowicz, and Veronica Mandel.

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York



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HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice -Chair

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In recognition of

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Sponsored by

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
&

The Bronx Women's Bar Association

"WORKPLACE EDUCATION DAY"

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

12:45 to 2:00 P.M.

Bronx County Hall of Justice

265 East 161st Street

Assembly Room 691

PRESENTERS

CHARLOTTE WEBER, L.M.S.W.
JUDGE SHARI R. MICHELS
JUDGE JEANETTE RODRIGUEZ-MORICK

"TRAFFICKING
COURT
CRIMINAL OR VICTIM?"*

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

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

**CLE (1hour)* - Materials will be available for download from:

<http://playground.courtney.org/COURTS/12jd/BRONX/members-only/index.shtml>

Password will be provided when you r.s.v.p.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Sharon Aarons
Barbara Anel
Tania Antero
Laura Bisignano
Yvette Brownridge
Carol Brumley
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Lisa Carrasquilla
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Joan Clodd
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Celeste Guzman
Hon. Wilma Guzman
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HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice-Chair

In recognition of

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

&

THE BRONX WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

present the annual program for

"Workplace Education Day"

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

12:45 to 2:00 p.m.

Bronx County Hall of Justice
Assembly Room 691

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Sharon Aarons
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Tania Antero
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Lorraine Venturilla
Caren Yukelson

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

Presenters
CHARLOTTE WEBER, L.M.S.W.
JUDGE SHARI R. MICHELS
JUDGE JEANNETTE RODRIGUEZ-MORICK

"TRAFFICKING
COURT
CRIMINAL OR VICTIM?"

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

Program Co-Sponsors

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

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



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HON. ROBERT TORRES
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Administrative Judge

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice-Chair

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

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

DATE: JANUARY 20, 2015

RE: APRIL 10, 2014 PROGRAM

The Gender Fairness Committee of the 12th Judicial District sponsored its fifteenth annual Women's History Month program on Thursday, April 10, 2014. Held in the Rotunda of the Bronx County Building, the event had over 200 people in attendance.

This year we gave the Outstanding Service award to SCO Sandra C. Jefferson. In addition, the EVOLVE award was given to three promising high school girls. Ten hardworking court employees were named Women of Distinction.

The program was moderated by Mortgage Foreclosure Conference Part Supervising Referee Josephine M. Bastone. Darlene Dove-Malave gave an invocation, which was followed by the National Anthem, sung by CO Jessica Peña. Administrative Judges Douglas E. McKeon and Robert E. Torres opened the program with welcoming remarks. Floral arrangements were presented to the honorees. Deputy Borough President (and past honoree) Aurelia Greene presented a Women's History Month proclamation. Justice Price gave closing remarks, thanking the members of the committee and our co-sponsors, and inviting the audience to enjoy the lunch prepared by Yankee Tavern.

The names of committee members and of our event co-sponsors are on the attached program. Program co-chair Emily Sanchez and her committee members Carol Brumley and Elix Madera-Fliegelman managed to collect sufficient monies from bar associations, unions, neighbourhood stores, etc. to meet our expenses. Yankee Tavern kept our food costs down.

Further, program co-chair ADA Maria Rivero did an exceptional job in preparing the biographies distributed, and Judge Price's Confidential Bonnie Schnapper arranged for press coverage, among other things. Both members and non-members of the program committee assisted on the day of the event.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Emily Sanchez (718) 618-3664

Bonnie Schnapper (718) 618-3646



In recognition of *Women's History Month*, the Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District will present its 15th annual awards program on Thursday, April 10, 2014, from 12:45 to 2:30 p.m., in the Rotunda of the Bronx County Building, at 161st Street and the Grand Concourse.

This year we will be awarding ten *Women of Distinction* certificates to court system employees who have impressed the Committee by their job performance or because they have overcome odds with supreme grace. We will also be giving a special *Outstanding Service Award* to Senior Court Officer Saundra Jefferson for her many years of outstanding service to our committee and to the community.

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

The Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District draws its members from every level of the court community, including bar associations, advocacy and prosecution agencies which service or appear before the courts, the Bronx Borough President's Office, the County Clerk's Office, and each of the various courts in the Bronx. The Committee was created 23 years ago in response to recommendations of the Chief Judge's Committee on Gender Bias. Chaired by the Honorable Richard Lee Price and Co-Chaired by the Honorable Josephine M. Bastone,

the Bronx Committee helps implement those recommendations, and seeks to further address and correct issues of gender bias and unfair practices in the courthouse community.

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

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

of the Court, Appellate Division, First Department; Dr. Nieca Goldberg, Cardiologist; Joyce Y. Hartsfield, Esq., former President, The Bronx County Bar Association; Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge; Ms. Elaine Brennan, Senior Vice President Operations, Montefiore Medical Center/Einstein Division; Justice Laura G. Douglas, Supervising Judge, Bronx Civil Court; Ms. Soledad O'Brien, News Anchor, CNN; Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Senior Associate Judge, NYS Court of Appeals; Jewel Williams, Chief, Department of Public Safety, NYS Unified Court System; Ms. Irene Cornell, Reporter, CBS Radio, the Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson, Administrative Judge, NYC Family Court, Ms. Rachel Lloyd, Executive Director, GEMS: Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, the Hon. La Tia W. Martin, Supervising Judge - Matrimonial Division, Bronx County, *Dr. Hazel N. Dukes*, President, NAACP, New York State Conference and the *Hon. A. Gail Prudenti*, Chief Administrative Judge, of the New York State Courts; Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, First Judicial District, New York State Supreme Court and Katherine D. LaGuardia, MD, MPH, Chair & Co-Founder, Fiorello H. LaGuardia Foundation.

The court community and the public are invited.

3/31/14



Women's History Month Program Committee Members

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

Hon. Sharon Arons
Ms. Tania Antero
Ms. Laura Bisignano
Ms. Carol Brunley
Ms. Joan Clodd
Hon. Earnestine Glover
Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez
Hon. Wilma Guzman
SCO Karen Hughes
Ms. Esther Kelly
Hon. Sue Levy
Ms. Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman
Robyn Mar, Esq.
Hon. Tracy Pardo
Charlene Pulakos, Esq.
Ms. Lorraine Ramsey
Hon. Gayle Roberts
Laurie E. Rosen, Esq.
Ms. Bonnie Schnapper

PROGRAM CO-SPONSORS

161st Street Merchants' Assoc., Inc. · ASSC Reporters Within NYC · Black Bar Association of Bronx County · Borough President · Bronx County Bar Association · Bronx County Clerk · The Columbia Society, Inc. · Court Deli (NPK Donut, Inc.) · Crown Donuts · Derek Photographers · D & J Variety · F.K. Exotic Gourmet Food Corp. · The Guardians Association of New York State Courts · Left Prescription (Bronx Prescription Center South) · Loria Corporation · Judiciary Unit - CSEA Local 010 · New York County Lawyers' Association · Law Related Education Committee · New York State Court Clerks Association · New York State Court Officers Association · New York State Supreme Court Officers Association · Olympia-Hearns Flower Shop · The Tribune Society, Inc. · Twin Donuts · Yankee Tavern

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

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

In Cooperation with

The Bronx Women's Bar Association
Eileen Malunowicz, President

proudly presents

Women's History Month

Program

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014 – 12:45 TO 2:30 P.M.
VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT
851 GRAND CONCOURSE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

2014 Women's History Month

INVOCATION

Darlene Dove-Malavé

NATIONAL ANTHEM

CO Jessica Peña

OPENING REMARKS

Hon. Douglas E. McKeon - Civil Term

Hon. Robert E. Torres - Criminal Term

~

MODERATOR

Josephine M. Bastone, Esq.

~

“WOMEN OF DISTINCTION” CERTIFICATES

Laura Bisignano

Patricia Bruno

Rosa Duarte

LaChell Glaspie

Lt. Sandra Lopez

Sgt. Jacqueline Moher

Evelyn Moloney

SCO Odalys Perez

Terri J. Roman

Sylvia Soto

~

PRESENTATION

Hon. Aurelia Greene

Deputy Borough President

~

Exceptional, Visionary, Optimistic,

Leadership, Volunteerism, & Education

Awards

Allison Essanason - Harry S. Truman High School

Gabriella Mordan - St. Catharine Academy

Leshley Ortiz - Harry S. Truman High School

~

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Saundra C. Jefferson

Senior Court Officer

~

CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Richard Lee Price

~

**THE BRONX COUNTY
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**

&

THE BRONX WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION



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

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

Present

Women's History Month

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

12:45 TO 2:30 P.M.

**VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York**

“Women Of Distinction”

Certificates will be presented to notable women

&

“E V O L V E” Student Awards

&

***Outstanding Service Award*
SCO Sandra C. Jefferson**

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

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

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
CELEBRATION
2014**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10th, 2014
BRONX COUNTY BUILDING
VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL**

"WOMEN OF DISTINCTION"

2014

Laura Bisignano
(Senior Court Reporter)

Patricia Bruno
(Senior Court Clerk, Bronx County Clerk's Office, Jury Div.)

Rosa Duarte
(Custodian, DCAS)

LaChell Glaspie
(Senior Court Clerk, Supreme Court, Bronx County)

Lieutenant Sandra Lopez
(NYS Court Officer, Civil Court, Bronx County)

Sergeant Jacqueline Moher
(NYS Court Officer, Supreme Court, Bronx County)

Evelyn Moloney
(Senior Court Clerk, Supreme Court, Criminal, Bronx County)

Odalys Perez
(NYS Court Officer, Civil Court, Bronx County)

Terri J. Roman
(Project Director, Bronx Domestic Violence Complex)

Sylvia Soto
(Senior Court Clerk, Supreme Court, Bronx County)

LAURA BISIGNANO

Senior Court Reporter

In her long-standing journey with the Unified Court System, Laura has been an extremely dedicated and compassionate Senior Court Reporter for more than thirty years.

She considers herself an amicus curiae to attorney Kevin Barry, who survived a stroke in October 2007 during a trial in which Laura was working.

Laura has been married to the love of her life, Vincent, for more than twenty-five years. They have one daughter, Jenna Christine, who is graduating this May from Sacred Heart University and who will attend graduate school there for Occupational Therapy. Laura is dedicated to her seriously ill mother, Carol Tucciarone, who remains her role model in life.

PATRICIA BRUNO

**Senior Court Clerk
Bronx County Clerk's Office, Jury Division**

In her career with the Courts, Patricia has served as a Court Officer, and subsequently, a Senior Court Officer.

For the past nine years, she has worked as a Senior Court Clerk at the Bronx County Clerk's Office.

Seven of those years have been in the Jury Assembly Room, where Pat finds her work fun, exciting, and rewarding.

She is truly grateful for this honor and thanks everyone involved.

ROSA DUARTE
Custodian, DCAS

In 1994, Rosa Duarte came to New York from the Dominican Republic and made the Bronx her home.

She has two beautiful daughters, one in college and one about to graduate from high school.

In addition to her daughters, Rosa's mother, who has been a blessing in her life, resides with her.

Rosa has worked for DCAS for the past 8 years as a custodian in the Supreme Court Building on the Concourse, most recently assigned to the 5th floor.

LaCHELL GLASPIE

Senior Court Clerk, Supreme Court, Bronx County

LaChell Glaspie entered the Unified Court System over 13 years ago as a Court Officer in the 9th Judicial District.

Eventually, she transferred to Bronx Criminal Court.

Shortly thereafter, LaChell earned her current position as a Senior Court Clerk in Supreme Court. She is currently assigned to the Guardianship/Fiduciary Department.

LaChell is the proud mother of one daughter, Carly.

LT. SANDRA LOPEZ

NYS Court Officer, Civil Court, Bronx County

Lt. Sandra Lopez entered the Unified Court System in 1989 as a Court Officer assigned to Bronx Civil Court.

She rose through the ranks making Sergeant in 1997 and Lieutenant in 2004.

Lt. Lopez is the proud mother of one daughter who followed in her footsteps as a court officer. Her daughter is assigned to Family Court.

SERGEANT JACQUELINE MOHER

NYS Court Officer, Supreme Court, Bronx County

Jacqueline Moher started her court career as a Court Officer in Family Court in Bronx County in 1990.

In 1993, she was promoted to Supreme Court, Criminal Term, in New York County, and was transferred to Supreme Court in Bronx County in 1995.

She was promoted to Sergeant in Bronx Supreme Court in 1997.

Sergeant Moher graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College in 1983.

EVELYN MOLONEY

**Senior Court Clerk
Supreme Court, Criminal, Bronx County**

Evelyn Moloney started working as a Court Assistant in Bronx Supreme Court in 1983.

In 1987, she became a Clerk. For the next 18 years, she had the good fortune to work in the courtrooms of two remarkable gentlemen: Judge Joseph Mazur and Judge Robert Cohen.

Since Judge Cohen retired, Evelyn has been out of the courtroom, and has worked in the Clerk's Office where her colleagues, especially her co-worker, Marisol Lebron in the Indictment Department, have made this assignment another good one.

ODALYS PEREZ

NYS Court Officer, Civil Court, Bronx County

Odalys Perez was born and raised in New York City. For the past 6 years, she has proudly served as a Court Officer and today calls Bronx Civil Court her home.

With the grace of God, one of her biggest rewards was to have been part of a team that saved a co-worker's life.

She is very proud of her daughter and her family is the most important thing in her life.

Odalys is truly humbled by this honor and thanks everyone.

TERRI J. ROMAN

Program Director, Bronx Domestic Violence Complex

Terri J. Roman is currently the Project Director of the Bronx Domestic Violence Complex and has held this position since February 2001.

Prior to her employment with the court system, she was employed by the Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division, for 14 years.

Ms. Roman received her Masters Degree in Social Work from the State University of New York at Albany in 1986 and is certified as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of New York.

SYLVIA SOTO
Senior Court Clerk, Supreme Court, Bronx County

Sylvia started her court career in Family Court in 1996, and with her extensive outside experience as a secretary and statistical typist, she quickly began her ascent to higher clerical positions.

She first progressed to a Principal Office Typist in Yonkers City Court where she spent time in Criminal, Traffic, and Civil Courts.

Upon passing the Senior Court Clerk test in 2007, she was promoted to Westchester County Supreme Court, Civil. She subsequently transferred to Bronx Supreme Court where she is now working in the Foreclosure and Mental Hygiene Part.

Sylvia is an active member of her church, supports numerous charitable organizations, and gives of her time to visit nursing home patients who are in need of companionship. She is grateful and honored to have been selected as a "Women of Distinction."

Exceptional

Visionary

Optimistic

Leadership

Volunteerism

Education

A W A R D S

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

2014

**Allison Essanason
Harry S. Truman High School**

**Gabriella Mordan
St. Catharine Academy**

**Leshley Ortiz
Harry S. Truman High School**

ALLISON ESSANASON

Harry S. Truman High School

Whether she is meeting a deadline for her AP U.S. History Class, assisting with Culinary Department events, dedicating time to her position as the Secretary of the Student Council, or attending a Saturday program at Parson's New School of Design, Allison does nothing by half-measures. She is a model of organization and efficiency who makes the most of every opportunity and encourages others to do the same.

Allison is currently in the top 10% of her junior class at Truman High School with an average of 94%.

Allison's maturity is depicted in her mantra "we cannot dwell on what resources we do not have, but can only embrace and appreciate what we do have."

Compared to her peers, Allison's home life is very different. Allison's mom is physically disabled and in the care of a home

health aide while Allison is in school. When Allison comes home, she is the person in charge of mom's care. Despite the formidable financial hardships she has endured, Allison still has an extremely giving nature.

Allison is incredibly enthusiastic about her future. She stresses the importance of attending a college where both community and academics fit her determination and broaden her knowledge. Allison's aspiration is to be a fashion designer, and she is already prepping her portfolio in anticipation of applying to several fashion colleges next year.

GABRIELLA MORDAN

St. Catharine Academy

Gabriella Mordan, a junior at St. Catharine Academy, has maintained a 90 or above average every year since the 9th grade. She is a lovely, friendly, and kind young woman. She has high hopes for her life and works diligently to fulfill her dreams and goals. She knows that she alone will make it happen.

Gaby lives with her older brother, his wife, their two young children, and his mother-in-law in a two-bedroom apartment. She doesn't have a space of her own and helps to care for the children. She often states that it is hard to find a place to study and complete her homework, but she always does and her transcript is evidence of her hard work.

Since Gaby's mother passed away when she was 10 years old, she has moved from Newburgh in upstate New York to the Bronx, living with her father, her maternal grandmother, and

finally her brother. She often states that she has never felt a part of a family since her mother's death.

Although Gaby has responsibilities in the home that other adolescents don't deal with, she struggles to remain positive, focused, and encouraged. And that is just what Gaby does. She knows that her education is the only way out of her current situation. She maintains high grades in her Honors and Advanced Placement classes in spite of any emotional struggle she may be experiencing. She puts her feelings aside because she won't take her eyes off her goals.

Gaby wants to go college and study medicine. She remembers her promise to her mother to become better and better. She knows that, although it isn't easy, she will never break that promise to her mother.

Gaby is truly a great example of resilience and dignity.

LESHLEY ORTIZ

Harry S. Truman High School

Leshley Ortiz is a junior at Harry S. Truman High School and has been a member of the JROTC since the beginning of her high school career. The JROTC Program fosters a strong sense of discipline but also of service and Leshley takes this to the highest level.

She is very actively involved in many of the volunteer programs the JROTC participates in, including working in local soup kitchens, cleaning New York City park areas, assisting with the toy drive at Christmas time, assisting with the annual coat drive, and participating in the Autism Walk and the Kidney Foundation Walk.

In 10th grade, Leshley was a Science tutor. She is currently a part of Truman's Best Buddies Program, a program that partners high school students with students with disabilities.

In addition to all of these acts of service, Leshley is extremely active within her own family and assists her mother in the running of the household by caring for her three younger siblings. She is much more than just a big sister and takes very seriously her commitment to assist her siblings in any way she can and to be a very positive role model.

While committing herself to all these selfless activities, Leshley still maintains a grade point average which earned her a place on the Honor Roll.

THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

OUTSTANDING

SERVICE

AWARD

2014

SAUNDRA C. JEFFERSON

Supreme Court Officer

Saundra Christine Jefferson is a 30-year veteran of the New York State Court System. She began her career in Bronx Family Court, later transferring to the Criminal Division. In 1993, she was promoted to Senior Court Officer at Bronx Supreme Court. She is presently assigned to the Civil Division.

Saundra has voluntarily given her time and input to various programs in the system — such as the Rescue and Recovery Team of the World Trade Center disaster. She is an active member of the anti-discrimination panel, the Guardian Society, the Hispanic Society, and a host of other organizations.

Needless to say, Saundra has given her special attention to the Gender Fairness Committee. She has brought numerous issues and subjects to the Committee for consideration. Her dedication to the Committee has been remarkable — she's always been ready to assist at a moment's notice. Her caring

personality has helped resolve many of the issues that the Committee has faced.

It has truly been an honor working with her and her presence will truly be missed. "Who's gonna watch the food and pin the flowers?"

We would like to wish Officer Jefferson the very best as she retires and enters the next exciting stage of her life.



Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York



265 East 161st Street, 934
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT E. TORRES
Administrative Judge - Criminal Term

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
Chair

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

851 Grand Concourse, 6M112-B
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON
Administrative Judge - Civil Term

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice-Chair

*To Non-Judicial Employees
The Gender Fairness Committee for the 12th Judicial District
and
The Bronx County Women's Bar Association
Present*

***WOMEN and MEN AND MONEY:
TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE***

Discussion led by Gary Schwartz of the Madison Planning Group, Inc.



DATE: Monday, April 28, 2014

TIME: 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Bronx Hall of Justice

265 East 161st Street
Bronx, New York 10451
(Jury Assembly Room #691)

RSVP: By April 23, 2014

Pizza will be provided for lunch

Contact: Josephine M. Bastone, Esq. (718-618-1344 or email: jbastone@courts.state.ny.us)

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



265 East 161st Street, 934
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT TORRES
Administrative Judge

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
Chair

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

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON
Administrative Judge

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice-Chair

TO: GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE FOR THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FROM: JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, PRESIDENT, THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY & CO-CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2014

RE: RETIREMENT BENEFITS PROGRAM

On Thursday, December 4, 2014, The Columbia Society, Inc. and the Gender Fairness Committee for the 12th Judicial District sponsored a program dealing with retirement benefits for court employees. Marsha Miles of the New York State Comptroller's Office was the speaker. Ms. Miles was one of the best presenters I personally have encountered, and we received nothing but raves about both her and her presentation.

When we distributed the information scheduling the program, the response we received was overwhelming. We had to move from a courtroom that seats 70 to one that seats 126. Even with bringing in additional chairs, there was not enough room to accommodate all responders, so a simulcast was set up in a courtroom in the Hall of Justice. Even with that, we had to turn away people. I do not have an accurate count of attendees, but believe, between the two buildings, it was in the 200 range.

I spoke with Ms. Miles, and we will be arranging another program sometime in 2015 for those who were unable to attend yesterday. In addition, I will be speaking with her about possibly setting up a limited number of one-on-one retirement consultations here in the Bronx.

My thanks to the technology department for their assistance in setting up the required equipment and for arranging the broadcast. Special thanks to Peter Kelleher, who stayed for the program in order to assist in the advancement of slides.

We would not have been able to set up the program without the assistance of Lily Marquez, Michelle Foggie, and Stephanie Smith-Bullock. Although their assistance is required in the majority of the programs we do, this particular program generated additional work simply due to the response we received. Also, Jason Castro, court aide, and Mario Malave, assistant court analyst, were called upon to assist in transporting

materials, etc. And, as always, the sub-committee thanks our Administrative Judges Douglas E. McKeon and Robert Torres.

Thank you to Gender Fairness Committee member Judge Shari Michels who stepped in at the last moment to monitor the sign-in sheets, etc. at the Hall of Justice site, and to court employee Ardiana Maluku, who sat at the sign-in table at the Bronx Supreme Court building.

The subcommittee consists of myself, Josephine M. Bastone, chair; Laura Bisignano, co-chair; Laurie Rosen, co-chair; and Richard Lee Price, member.

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York



265 East 161st Street, 934
Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT TORRES
Administrative Judge

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE
Chair

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

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

HON. DOUGLAS E. McKEON
Administrative Judge

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE
Vice-Chair

**THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE
&
THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY, INC.**

**RETIREMENT SEMINAR
FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON TIERS 3 & 4
(with some Tiers 1 & 2 if there is sufficient interest when you r.s.v.p.)**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014
12:20 - 2:30 P.M.**

**BRONX SUPREME COURT
851 GRAND CONCOURSE
ROOM 607**

This is an interactive program presented by an Information Representative from the Retirement System. Participants will learn the critical elements involved in the calculation of their pension benefit, what they can do to maximize these benefits, and obtain information on how and when to contact NYSLRS to obtain their specific information.

Participants will also have the opportunity to ask questions related to pension benefits during and after the presentation. In addition to a verbal and PowerPoint presentation, they will also receive a guide that covers pension information in more detail.

So that we may order enough materials for all who wish to attend, you **MUST r.s.v.p., if you plan to attend, no later than November 27, 2014, to**

**jbastone@nycourts.gov
Include your tier in your response.**

Feel free to bring your lunch.

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

Yes, for example, we have co-sponsorships with the Bronx Women's Bar Association, Bronx County Bar Association, and various other local businesses and organizations such as the Black Bar Association of Bronx County, Bronx Borough President, Bronx County Bar Association, Bronx County Clerk, The Columbia Society, Inc., Court Deli, Court Discount, Crown Donuts, D & J Variety, F.K. Exotic Gourmet Food Corp., Fun City Diner, Guardians Association, Leff Prescription Center, New York State Courts, Hispanic Court Officers Society, Loria Corporation, New York State Court Clerks Association, New York State Court Officers' Association, New York State Supreme Court Officers' Association, Olympia-Hearns Flower Shop, The Tribune Society, Inc., Yankee Tavern, and 161st Street Merchants Association.

*Committee on Equality in the Courts for the Twelfth Judicial District,
Bronx County Civil Court*

Hon. Elizabeth Taylor, Chair

Hon. Eddie J. McShan, Chair

Committee on Equality in the Courts for the Twelfth Judicial District, Bronx County Civil Court

Chairs: *Hon. Elizabeth A. Taylor and Hon. Eddie J. McShan*

Members: *Hon. Laura G. Douglas, Supervising Judge of Bronx Civil Court; Hon. Mitchell Danziger; Hon. Marian Doherty; Hon Eardell Rashford; Robin Emmanuelli, Esq.; SCC Nanette Mack; SCC Eugene Yates; Pastor Torrence Robinson*

Counties Served: *Bronx*

2014 Meetings

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *No*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month: *The Committee encouraged members to attend the Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District, Supreme Court's program titled "Trafficking...Court...Criminal or Victim?."*

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email, Mail, and Flyer

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

- *Panel discussion on repairing the community's relationship with the NYPD*
- *Program addressing how to navigate the Consumer Credit part in Civil Court*

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015?

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Collaboration

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

Bar Associations

**The Black Bar Association of Bronx County,
The Black History Month Celebration
and
The Committee on Equality in the Courts
Present**

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Repairing the community's relationship with the NYPD
& the Criminal Justice System

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Bronx County Courthouse, Rotunda
851 Grand Concourse, Bronx

Moderator: Dean Meminger, NY1 Criminal Justice Reporter



Dean Meminger

Panelists:

- ♦ Royce Russell, Esq., Emdin & Russell, LLP
- ♦ Peter Jones, Esq., Attorney-in-Charge, Legal Aid Society, Bronx Criminal
- ♦ Lt. Mark Turner, NYPD Training Bureau, Commanding Officer of Special Projects
- ♦ Pastor Torrence Robinson, Gethsemane Baptist Church
- ♦ Abdul Malik Talib, Community Activist

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

Hon. Deborah Kaplan, Chair

Gregory Testa, Chair

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

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

Members: *Secretary: Valerie Qualls; Simone Abrams, Doina Alamazon, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Andrew Coyle, Esq., Patricia Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Judith Gische, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Yesenia Herrera, Cecily Hernandez, Ta-Tanisha James, Hon. Lynn Kotler, Joan Levenson, Esq., Dean Leslie, Esq., Marie Rosemy, Hon. Lori Sattler, Seng Yan Sin, Esq., Gloria Smyth-Godinger, Hon. Milton Tingling, John Werner, Esq., Shadai Wilkins*

Counties Served: *New York*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *Our committee holds meetings or special events on a monthly basis.*

Average Attendance: *Our meetings attract about 10-20 members, while our events host about 100 guests.*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

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

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *The success of our committee is reflected by the wonderful feedback we receive from the guests of our events. We are happy that our programs have opened dialogue on complex issues, educated guests on important social concerns, and have inspired members to become more active in their communities.*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our Committee hosted a presentation by Ian Harris, Esq. on the topic of Cyber Abuse. Mr. Harris is a staff attorney with New York Legal Assistance Group's Matrimonial and Family Law Unit where he represents survivors of intimate partner abuse in family, matrimonial, and immigration matters. He also serves as the secretary for the New York City Bar Association Domestic Violence Committee. Mr. Harris presented an informative presentation alerting guests of the dangers of cyber abuse and discussed how technology has transformed the field of domestic violence.

Activities for Women's History Month:

- *The 2014 Women's History Program featured a presentation by Mary Solomon. Ms. Solomon has been the Scan Van Program Director for Project Renewal since September of 2008. The Scan Van Program provides free breast cancer screening exams to uninsured, and low-income women in New York. Previously, Mary was the Executive Director of Women's Outreach Network, a mobile mammography program from January of 1987 through September of 2008, which also targeted the under-served. Ms. Solomon discussed her work with Project Renewal, as well as the necessity of cancer screening and cancer warning signs.*
- *The Committee also presented Linell Hunter, Esq., with the 2014 Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Hunter presently serves as the Deputy Chief Court Attorney of the Law Department, New York County, Civil Term. Ms. Hunter has worked with the Law Department for the past 26 years. A reception with refreshments followed the event.*

Other Special Events or Activities:

- *Bring Your Children to Work Day*
In April, our committee hosted "Bring Your Children to Work Day." This traditional event welcomes children of employees for an educational day in court. The children arrived to a breakfast, attended a presentation featuring various courthouse employees who discussed their work, took part in a security equipment demonstration, and participated in mock trials with Supreme Court Justices in which the children assumed the role of judges, jurors, witnesses, and attorneys. The day concluded with a pizza lunch and gift bags.
- *The Holocaust Remembrance Program*
On May 6, 2014, our committee again co-sponsored with the Jewish Lawyers Guild, the Holocaust Remembrance Program. This program featured presentations by the Honorable Martin Shulman, Associate Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department, and the Honorable Sherry Klein-Heitler, Administrative Judge, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Branch.

The program began with a candle lighting ceremony by Holocaust survivors and their family members to honor those that lost their lives. A brief biography of each family noting their experiences during and after the Holocaust was shared with the audience. The keynote presenter was Sally Frishberg, a survivor of the Holocaust, followed by a musical performance by the Heschel High School Harmonizers. The courthouse's historic rotunda also featured a multi-media exhibit entitled "Cruel Correspondence: Anti-Semitic

Postcards 1895-1930". The Holocaust Program Special Film Screening program featured a viewing of the movie The Lady in Number 6.

- ***Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event***

On June 6, 2014, the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event was held.

This annual celebration was named in honor of Caren Aronowitz, a beloved court employee who passed away and who was instrumental in organizing many courthouse events. The festivity featured a large buffet of food celebrating different cultures, a musical performance, a performance by the New York State Court Bagpipe and Drum Corps, and a slideshow celebrating the diversity within our courthouses. This event was co-sponsored by various bar associations and community organizations.

- ***Summer Lecture***

On June 16, 2014, our committee hosted a lecture featuring Maya Wiley, Esq., Counsel to the Mayor of the City of New York. Ms. Wiley spoke about her interesting work at City Hall. Ms. Wiley discussed her work advising the Mayor on legal matters involving City Hall and the executive staff, and also discussed the importance of public service.

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email, Mail, Flyer, and our special events are advertised and marketed by contacting many organizations. We also directly contact college and law school professors so that they can discuss our programs with students and faculty that may be interested in attending.

Who and how many attended?

All of our programs are without cost and open to members of the public. The events are attended by judges, judicial and non judicial staff, attorneys, college and law school professors, students, and members of the community. Our events generally attract about 100 people.

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

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Holocaust Program, Diversity Program, Bring Your Children to Work Program, Health Fair

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015?

We plan to continue to build upon the success of our annual events for Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Holocaust Remembrance, Bring Your Children To Work

Day, and the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity program. We also hope to create new and innovative programs and hope to expand our membership.

Concerns

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2015? *Several issues which our committee has hosted events about remain vital topics that need to be addressed. These topics include gender equality, trafficking, dating violence, and domestic violence.*

Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Updates on Domestic Violence Laws*

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

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

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? *Bar Associations, Colleges, Domestic Violence Organizations, Sexual Assault Organizations, and we have reached out to organizations to forward advertisements for our events to their members. We have featured presenters from various domestic violence and sexual abuse organizations and have co-sponsored events with bar organizations.*

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *Setting up a calendar of Gender Fairness Committee events so that we can be aware of what events neighboring courthouses are hosting*

The Gender Fairness Committee
Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch
cordially invites you to attend
The Annual Women's History Month Celebration
Tuesday, April 29, 2014
1:00 p.m.
Norman Goodman Jury Assembly Room
Supreme Court, 60 Centre Street, New York, New York

The 2014 Women's History Month keynote presentation will be made by Mary Solomon, Director of the Scan Van program for Project Renewal. Project Renewal is a non profit organization which aims to end the cycle of homelessness by empowering men and women with mental illness, addiction or both, to renew their lives with health, homes and jobs. The Scan Van program travels throughout New York, and provides free breast cancer screening exams to uninsured and low income women. Previously, Mary was the Executive Director of Women's Outreach Network, a mobile mammography program which also targeted the underserved, and was the Founder and Executive Director of Outreach for Breast Health Foundation, a non profit organization dedicated to educating and providing access for under-served women to breast health care. She is a past member of the Breast Cancer Steering Committees for both Nassau County and Suffolk County.

The Gender Fairness Committee will also be proudly awarding the 2014 Distinguished Service Award to Linell Hunter, Esq. Linell presently serves as the Deputy Chief Court Attorney of the Law Department, New York County, Civil Term. Linell, whose many duties include assisting in the supervision and administering of the many operations of the Law Department, will be honored for her exemplary achievements and her many years of distinguished and dedicated service to the court system.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Judge Deborah Kaplan's chambers at (646) 386-5567.



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

Women's History Month 2014

APRIL 29, 2014

1:00 P.M.

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

Women's History Month 2014

WELCOME

**Honorable Sherry Klein Heitler
Administrative Judge For Civil Matters,
First Judicial District**

**OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Mary Solomon
Project Renewal, Scan Van Program Director**

**PRESENTATION OF
THE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
TO
LINELL HUNTER, ESQ.**

**Lawrence Birnbaum, Esq.
Chief Court Attorney, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term**

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler, Hon. Norman Goodman, John Werner, Esq., Committee chairpersons: Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Gregory Testa, Esq., Committee members: Simone Abrams, Doina Almazon, Lori Balaklaw, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Andrew Coyle, Esq., PJ Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Judith Gische, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Yesenia Herrera, Officer Cecily Hernandez, Ta-Tanisha James, Esq., Dean Leslie, Esq., Joan Levenson, Esq., Valerie Qualls, Marie Rosemy, Rosaline Rosenfeld, Esq., Hon. Lori Sattler, Seng Yan Sin, Esq., Hon. Milton Tingling, Ellen Wagner, Officer Shadai Wilkins. Thank you for planning and advertising assistance to Luis Carrero, Ray Denton, Michelle Gonsieski, Irene Laracuenta, Naomi Ruiz, Loren Schwartz.

Mary Solomon

Scan Van Program Director, Project Renewal

Mary Solomon has been the Scan Van Program Director for Project Renewal since September of 2008. The Scan Van Program provides free breast cancer screening exams to uninsured, and low-income women in New York. Previously, Mary was the Executive Director of Women's Outreach Network, a mobile mammography program from January of 1987 through September of 2008, which also targeted the under-served.

Mary was the Founder and Executive Director of Outreach For Breast Health Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating and providing access for under-served women to breast health care from December 2002 through September 2008. She was also a past member of the Breast Cancer Steering Committees for both Nassau County and Suffolk County. Mary has also published an article in the Journal of the National Medical Association entitled "Breast Cancer Screening in Underserved Women in the Bronx."

Mary attended Stony Brook University, majoring in mathematics and computer science. She resides in Islip Terrace, New York, with her husband and three children.

Information from Project Renewal's Scan Van Program

The Project Renewal Scan Van Mobile Mammography Program targets low-income, uninsured and poorly insured women forty years and older. Under-served populations continue to experience significantly higher morbidity and mortality as a result of breast cancer. Although mammography usage is on the rise nationwide, the under-served, including minorities and the uninsured, are more likely to not receive breast cancer screening on a regular basis, and therefore more likely to discover their breast cancers in late stages of the disease. The Scan Van Program strives to provide medically under-served women with access to convenient free breast cancer screening and education. Our service is provided to all our patients at no out-of-pocket cost to the patient.

Although the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) requires women to obtain a script or referral from their primary doctor in order to get a mammography screening, the NYSDOH allows women, age forty and older, to refer themselves for mammography screening once annually to the Scan Van Program. The majority of women screened on the Scan Van do not have a relationship with a primary care physician. The majority are self-referred. The Scan Van Program welcomes uninsured women and waives all co-payments and deductibles for those with insurance so there is never an out-of-pocket cost. We encourage women to call 1-800-564 6868 to arrange a convenient appointment. Approximately a week before the appointment date, we mail home simple instructions and medical forms. We ask the patients to fill out their forms

at home and bring them with them to their appointment.

Patients will be provided with a clinical breast exam and a screening mammography on board our 40 foot Scan Van. Mammography images are interpreted by a board certified radiologist. Reports are mailed to either the patient's doctor(s) or directly to the patient along with a letter that indicates the results are normal or abnormal.

Patients with abnormal findings are contacted by Scan Van Patient Navigators by phone. Our navigators will arrange follow-up appointments with appropriate specialists. Our navigator will follow the patients through the diagnostic process and will request follow-up reports to ensure the patient receives proper follow-up as well as complies with follow-up recommendations. We navigate patients to specialists that accept their insurance plan. Uninsured patients are provided with free diagnostic exams with specialists at partner hospital locations throughout New York City.

Linell Hunter, Esq.
Deputy Chief Court Attorney of the Law Department

The Gender Fairness Committee is delighted to present Linell Hunter, Esq., with the 2014 Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award. Linell presently serves as the Deputy Chief Court Attorney of the Law Department, New York County, Civil Term.

Before beginning her legal career, Linell worked in the art world and managed art galleries throughout Soho. After deciding that she would like to enter into the legal field, Linell enrolled at New York Law School in Manhattan and graduated in 1985. She proceeded on to a career as a litigator, and in 1987 began working for the New York State Unified Court System as a Court Attorney. After serving as a Senior and Associate Court Attorney, Linell was promoted to the position of Principal Court Attorney and now serves as the Deputy Chief Court Attorney. Not only does Linell assist the judges of the Supreme Court by researching and drafting her own opinions for complex civil cases, but she also has acted as supervisor to many court attorneys to whom she provides valuable feedback and advice. Linell also assists Lawrence Birnbaum, Esq., Chief Court Attorney, in the administration of the many operations of the Law Department. Linell's terrific work ethic and dedication to the court system has also previously been recognized by the Law Secretaries and Law Assistants Collegium, who have presented her with the Collegium's Service Award at its Annual Dinner.

Linell, who outside of the courthouse, enjoys gardening, traveling, and is a pet lover, is beloved by her many co-workers for her kindness, willingness to help others, and her dedication to producing the best quality of work. When asked about what she enjoys most about her many accomplishments while at the Supreme Court, Linell proudly states, "I deeply love my work, as it allows me to deal with so many fine lawyers, and fine people." Congratulations to Linell for her 26 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the court system!

Women's History Month 2014 at the New York County Supreme Courthouse

A woman who makes breast cancer screening possible for uninsured and low-income women and another who helps make sure justice is served in the New York state courts. Both were featured at the Women's History Month celebration, held at the New York County Supreme Court on April 29 and sponsored by the Gender Fairness Committee of the New York County Supreme Court, Civil Branch.

Each year 230,000 women are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer. The Scan Van, a 40-foot van staffed with a board-certified radiologist, nurse and X-ray technician, and equipped with a digital mammography system, travels throughout the five boroughs to make testing easy and accessible. Scan Van helps "prevent the devastation that breast cancer can bring," according to its director, Mary Solomon, the event's keynote speaker.

Scan Van targets the medically underserved, who are more likely not to receive breast cancer screening on a regular basis. Service is provided to all patients at no out-of-pocket cost. "There is no reason that any woman who needs and desires a mammogram does not have one," said Solomon.

Call 1-800-564-6868 to set up an appointment with Scan Van for breast cancer screening. No referrals are necessary.

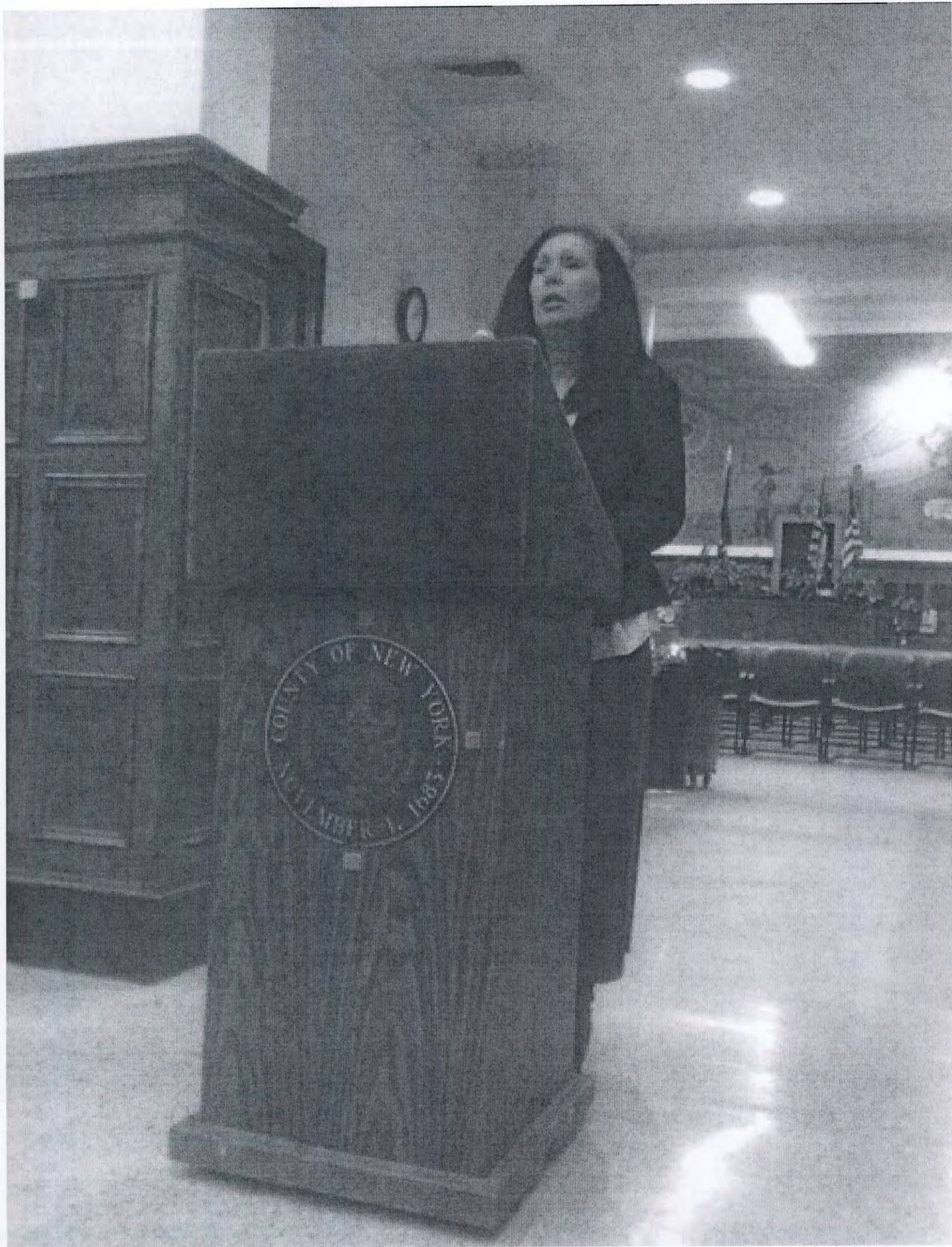
After the keynote speech, the Distinguished Service Award was presented to Linnell Hunter, Deputy Chief Court Attorney of the Law Department, New York County, Civil Term. Hunter, who was honored for her exemplary achievements and many years of distinguished and dedicated service to the court system, began her legal career in the New York State Unified Court System as a court attorney in 1987.

In her current position, she assists the judges of the Supreme Court by researching and drafting opinions for complex civil cases and works with Lawrence Birnbaum, Chief Court Attorney, in administering the law department.

"I can aspire to things my mother couldn't even dream of for herself," said Hunter on accepting her award in commemoration of Women's History Month.



Linnell Hunter, Deputy Chief Court Attorney of the Law Department, Supreme Court, New York County, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, presented by Lawrence Birnbaum, Chief Court Attorney.



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

MAYA WILEY, ESQ.

COUNSEL TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014

1:00 P.M.

60 CENTRE STREET

NORMAN GOODMAN JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, 452



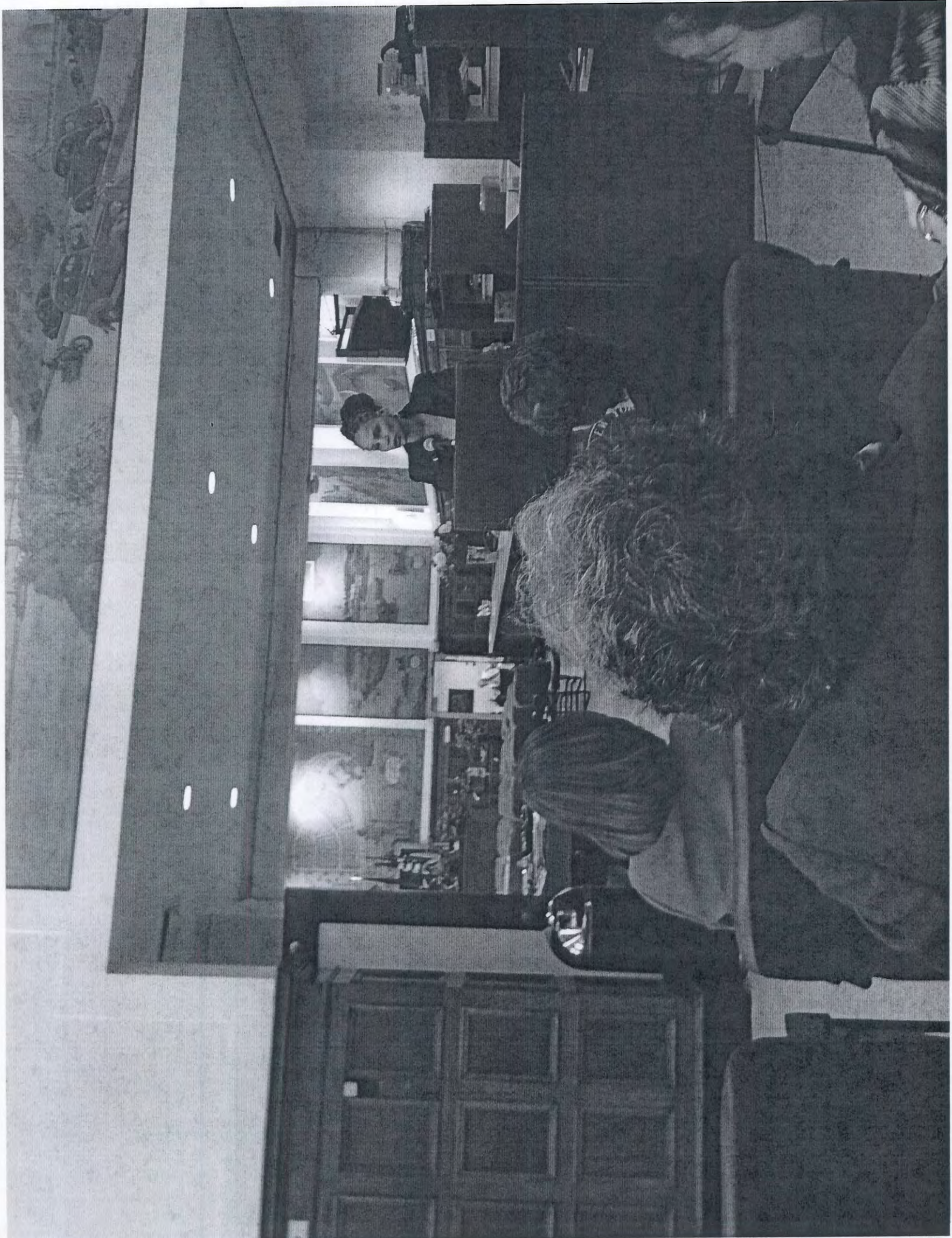
Maya Wiley is the Counsel to the Mayor of the City of New York. Ms. Wiley advises the Mayor on legal matters involving City Hall and the executive staff, and provides counsel to the Mayor on the legal aspects of policy and administrative matters. She also spearheads special projects, such as efforts to invest in New York's technology infrastructure and expand broadband access across all five boroughs.

Ms. Wiley was the Founder and President of the Center for Social Inclusion. A civil rights attorney and policy advocate, she has litigated, lobbied the U.S. Congress and developed programs to transform structural racism in the U.S. and in South Africa.

Prior to founding the Center for Social Inclusion, Ms. Wiley was a senior advisor on race and poverty to the Director of U.S. Programs of the Open Society Institute and helped develop and implement the Open Society Foundation - South Africa's Criminal Justice Initiative. She has worked for the American Civil Liberties Union National Legal Department, in the Poverty and Justice Program of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. and in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Ms. Wiley previously served on the Board of Directors of Human Rights Watch, the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota School of Law and the Council on Foreign Relations. She is the former chair of the Tides Network Board of Directors. In 2009, Ms. Wiley was named a NY Moves magazine Power Woman. She was also named as one of "20 Leading Black Women Social Activists Advocating Change" in 2011 by The Root.com.

Ms. Wiley has authored several articles and has been featured as a guest and panelist on MSNBC political commentary programs All In with Chris Hayes, Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell, Up with Steve Kornacki, Melissa Harris-Perry, NOW with Alex Wagner and The Cycle.

Ms. Wiley holds a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Dartmouth College.



Gender Fairness Committee Summertime Lecture

Throughout each year, the Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch, presents dynamic speakers who lecture on many important issues. This year the committee presented its first summertime lecture, featuring Maya Wiley, Esq.

Ms. Wiley serves as the Counsel to the Mayor of the City of New York and advises Mayor de Blasio on legal matters involving City Hall and the executive staff. She provides counsel to the Mayor on the legal aspects of policy and administrative matters and also spearheads special projects. Ms. Wiley holds a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Dartmouth College.

A large crowd consisting of court staff, students interning in the courthouse, and members of the public, listened as Ms. Wiley spoke about her interesting work at City Hall, her prior experiences in government and the law, and the importance of public service. Following her presentation, Ms. Wiley answered many questions from the audience. A small reception was held after the program in which guests greeted Ms. Wiley, enjoyed refreshments, and reflected upon the program.

Co-Sponsored by:

Amicus Curiae Colombia Association
 Asian American Bar Association of New York
 Association of Designated Supreme Court Justices
 Association of Secretaries to Supreme Court Justices
 Board of Justices of the Supreme Court, NY County
 The Brehon Law Society
 Catholic Court Attaches Guild
 The Cervantes Society
 Columbian Lawyers Association
 Court Attorneys Association of the City of New York
 CSEA Local 010
 District Counsel 37, Local 1070 AFSCME, AFL-CIO
 Dominican Bar Association
 Gay Straight Alliance of the NYS Courts
 Gender Fairness Committee of the NYS Supreme Court Civil
 Branch & NY County Clerk's Office
 Guardians Association of The New York State Courts, Inc.
 Guild of Catholic Lawyers, Inc.
 Hispanic Court Officers Association
 JALBCA
 Jewish Lawyers' Guild
 Law Secretaries & Law Assistants' Collegium, Inc.
 Municipal Credit Union (MCU)
 New York County Clerk's Office
 New York State Court Clerks' Association
 New York State Supreme Court Officers' Association
 New York State Trial Lawyers Association
 New York Women's Bar Association
 Office of Workforce Diversity
 Puerto Rican Bar Association
 The Shomrim Society of the NYS Courts
 Southern Girls Soul Food Restaurant
 The Tribune Society
 Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

The Cultural Diversity & Gender Fairness Committees,
 Supreme Court, Civil Branch, NY County
 & The New York County Clerk's Office



Present



The 11th Annual

Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Program

Friday, June 6th, 2014
 60 Centre Street Rotunda
 12:20 - 2:30 PM

New York State Courts Pipe and Drum Band

Greetings

Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler

Dedication

John F. Werner

Natalynn Nunez, Soprano

The Star Spangled Banner &

The Wind Beneath My Wings (for sing-along)

The Wind Beneath My Wings

Bette Midler

Oh, Oh, Oh

It must have been cold there in my shadow

To never have sunlight on your face

You were content to let me shine, that's your way

You always walked a step behind

So I was the one with all the glory

While you were the one with all the strength

A beautiful face without a name for so long

A beautiful smile to hide the pain

Did you ever know that you're my hero

And everything I would like to be?

I can fly higher than an eagle

For you are the wind beneath my wings

It might have appeared to go unnoticed

But I've got it all here in my heart

I want you to know, I know the truth, of course I know it

I would be nothing without you

Did you ever know that you're my hero?

You're everything I wish I could be

I could fly higher than an eagle

For you are the wind beneath my wings

Did I ever tell you you're my hero?

You're everything, everything I wish I could be

Oh, and I, I could fly higher than an eagle

For you are the wind beneath my wings/repeat

Oh, the wind beneath my wings

You, you, you, you are the wind beneath my wings

Fly, fly, fly away, you let me fly so high

Oh, you, you, you, the wind beneath my wings/repeat
Fly, fly, so high against the sky
So high I almost touch the sky

Thank you, thank you

Thank God for you, the wind beneath my wings

Event Coordinating Committee

Simone Abrams

Lori Balaklaw

Yesenia Herrera

Valerie Qualls

Joseph E. Van Nostrand

Edna Vera

Ellen Wagner

Marie Rosemy

Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Deborah Kaplan, Co-Chair

Gregory Testa, Co-Chair

Simone Abrams

Donna Almazan

Lori Balaklaw

Hon. Arlene Bluth

Hon. Matthew Cooper

P.J. Garone

Elizabeth Gertz

Hon. Judith Gische

Hon. Shlomo Hagler
Cecily Hernandez.

Ta-Tanisha James

Joan Levenson

Valerie Qualls

Marie Rosemy

Rosaline Rosenfeld

Hon. Lori Sattler

Hon. Milton Tingling

John F. Werner

Special Thanks to:

Augustine Capote

Luis Carrero

Delores Cepeda

Sergio Colon

Ray Denton

Ted Ermansons

Michelle Gonsieski

Eric Ho

Ahmad Jenkins

Boris Levitis

Jack Moy

Naomi Ruiz

Loren Schwartz

John Werner

Karen Aronowitz Diversity Day 2014



Justice Sherri Klein Heitler

Left, descending: Joan Gilbert;
Anna Dong, & Richard Minor.

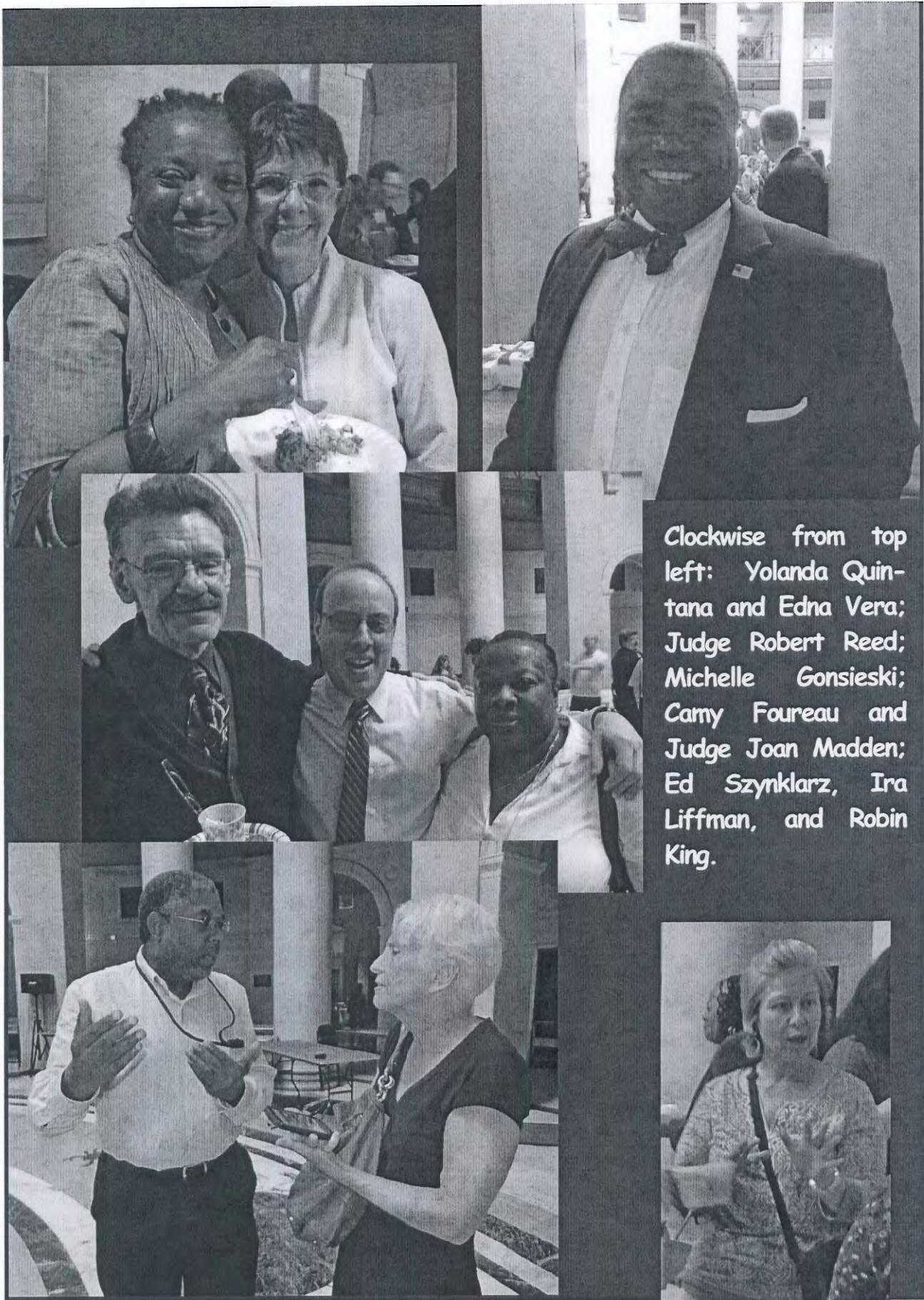
Below: Samantha Garcia and
Natalynn Nunez.





Clockwise from
above left: Mary
Jenkins and Joe
Parris; Judges
Kaplan, Lobis,
and Visitacion-
Lewis; Kathy
Skillen and
Cherise Phipps-
Canton; Janet
Bullock; Doreen
Gushue.





Clockwise from top left: Yolanda Quintana and Edna Vera; Judge Robert Reed; Michelle Gonsieski; Camy Foureau and Judge Joan Madden; Ed Szyklarz, Ira Liffman, and Robin King.



Jerry Sanchez, above,
and Sergio Colon, right.

*Thank
you*



for another wonderful Karen Aronowitz Diversity Day, to The Cultural Diversity Committee and The Gender Fairness Committee of the Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County, and the New York County Clerk's Office.

Special thanks to the hardworking members of the Event Coordinating Committee:

Simone Abrams
Doina Almazon
Lori Balaklaw
Yesenia Herrera

Joan Gilbert
Valerie Qualls
Marie Rosemy
Joseph Van Nostrand

Ellen Wagner

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

Sponsored by the
JEWISH LAWYERS GUILD

in cooperation with

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

Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 12:30-2:00 P.M.
Supreme Court, New York County
60 Centre Street ~ Rotunda

ALL ARE WELCOME

Remarks and Readings

HONORABLE SHERRY KLEIN-HEITLER
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, SUPREME COURT, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

Remarks

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

Keynote Presentation

Sally Frishberg

Holocaust Survivor and Board Member

School News Nationwide *Words of Bonds* Holocaust Educational Project

Featured in *Voices From the Attic* (1989), a documentary of a woman who visits the child she was in the Holocaust.

A Musical Tribute by the Heschel High School Harmonizers

Holocaust Remembrance Exhibits

Dr. Arthur Flug, Executive Director
Harriet & Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center & Archives at
Queensborough Community College (CUNY)



Just Us



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

Remembrance Issue No. 3, May 2014

Going Forward

by John Werner and Hon. Martin Shulman, Program Co-Chair with
Hon. Deborah Kaplan

On Tuesday, May 6, 2014 [6th of Iyyar 5774], the Jewish Lawyers' Guild, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County (Gender Fairness Committee) and the New York County Clerk's Office sponsored our annual Holocaust Remembrance Program. The first of such programs presented by our court took place 20 years ago on April 8th 1994 (see flyers attached). Each and every one of these programs have been incredibly moving and poignant and even more so - if that is possible - with the introduction in 2004 of the Candle Lighting Ceremony by Holocaust Survivors and the Second Generation. The conflagrations which have been spreading through so much of the Middle East remind us all of the real dangers that persist and that the lessons which the survivors of the Holocaust offer to humanity are as relevant as ever or even more so. Indeed, the on-going Israeli/Gaza conflict is yet another example of the threats faced by Israel from its neighbors and beyond. The many ancient Jewish communities which existed beyond Israel throughout so much of the Middle East and North Africa are mostly only distant memories, just as are the once thriving Jewish communities of Central and Eastern Europe which existed before the Holocaust. So, we "Remember: Lest We Forget!!" (the opening line of the flyer for our first, April 8th, 1994 program).

This special edition of "Just Us" is the third such special edition - the first in 2012 and the second in 2013 - in which we publish the stories told in conjunction with the Candle Lighting Ceremony. As in each of the past four years, this year's stories were read by Administrative Judge Sherry Heitler. Not only does Judge Heitler read from her heart, but she has a special gift for not only conveying the essence of her narration, but also capturing, entirely, the attention of her audience and ensuring that the experience presented is shared as it should be and needs to be.

As powerful as any such a presentation may be, the nature of the spoken word is such that it is easily “lost in the wind,” and it is for this reason we publish these special editions of “Just Us.” Each of the more than six million Jews lost in the Holocaust had a story to tell, but tragically so many of those stories are lost to us, which is, of course, all the more reason it is so vital we preserve the memories that remain. And, as we lose the survivors themselves to the vicissitudes of aging, we turn naturally to the second generation who speak for them as we all need speak for them. So, this special edition presents the stories of another group of courageous individuals who survived the Holocaust and it also highlights the remarks of this year’s Keynote Speaker, Ms. Sally Frishberg, a child survivor of the Holocaust featured in “Voices From the Attic” (1989), a documentary about her life during World War II.

This year’s Rotunda Exhibit, “Cruel Correspondence: Anti-Semitic Postcards 1895 - 1930,” makes clear that for decades it was commonplace for many throughout Europe and the United States, and not only extremists, to casually spread messages of anti-Semitism and hate. Common as they were, such cards were far from benign. The unquestioning anti-Semitism of which they were part encouraged humanity’s descent down a slippery slope, making it all the easier for Germany - then considered by so much of the world to be an enlightened nation of laws - to commit genocide of unparalleled proportions.

Today, the laws of New York State afford a level protection from discriminatory conduct based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age and sexual orientation. As important as these laws are, and they are very important, legislating morality within, much less beyond our borders, will never suffice. Holocaust Remembrance and like programs give a human voice and face to the evils and horrors stemming from bias and hatred, and such programs promoting tolerance and understanding are vital to the creation of a safer, fairer world, one of peace, tolerance and justice.

Our sincere thanks to Bruce Raskin, Esq., President of the Jewish Lawyers Guild, Priva Simon, Esq., Dr. Arthur Flug, Executive Director of the Harriet & Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center & Archives at Queensborough Community College (CUNY), and to the Heschel Harmonizers.

Just Us editor: Loren Schwartz

Candle Lighters

Candle lighter: Eva Blank, survivor

I was born in Sosnowiec, Poland to a traditional family. My parents were very devoted to me and my older brother. Even when the war began, my parents continued to stress the importance of education. At considerable risk, my mother would remove her yellow star in order to obtain text books for me. Her sacrifices continued when both my father and I were sent to a labor camp. To provide us with some additional “assistance”, she would sew money into the clothing that she somehow managed to smuggle into the camp.

Amongst the children, I was the only one in the labor camp to have a father with them. Despite the meager portions allotted to us, my father always tried to have something extra sent over to me. I remember one day when I learned that someone had taken my father’s ration, I voiced my anger at this lack of civility. My father calmly responded that no doubt it had been taken by someone who was even hungrier. He also imparted another lesson that has remained with me... while the Nazis managed to take from us whatever material possessions we owned, they could never take from us the education and knowledge that we had acquired.

My father died during the evacuation and I was placed on a transport along with my mother’s sister, my sole remaining relative. There was barely any room for us to stand and I painfully observed that my aunt was being trampled on by our fellow prisoners. To this day I don’t know how I was able to muster the courage or the strength, but I managed to push my aunt



Eva Blank

off the speeding train and I followed her and jumped. At the time, my thoughts were that we had nothing more to lose as our lives were coming to an end anyway. Miraculously, we both survived the jump. We were arrested by the police, who in turn sent us to Theresienstadt, where we remained until we were finally liberated on May 5.

From there my aunt and I returned to Poland, seeking survivors from our family. Unfortunately, there were none. We then went to Germany and lived in a DP camp in Landsberg. There my aunt insisted that I continue my education and take lessons in English and Hebrew. Shortly thereafter, I met the man who was to become my husband.

While we had plans to make Aliyah, our course was abruptly changed. My husband had survived with his father, who remarried after the war. Once my father-in-law decided to go to the United States, we followed and arrived in New York Harbor on Labor Day, 1950. We gratefully began our new lives in America.

In 1952, my twin sons were born and a whole new life started for us. Several years later, I returned to school to learn computer programming and worked at Bank Leumi for 25 years. We lived in a wonderful modern orthodox world and continued to enjoy a good life until my son Abe tragically passed away one year ago, and my husband passed away only six months ago. Today I live on the west side of Manhattan, near my son Joe, a lawyer, and I am also most fortunate to have four grandchildren who continue my family's commitment both to education and to the Jewish community.

**Candle lighter: Elinor R. Hoffman, Assistant Attorney General
in memory of her family**

Like many of you, I have a choice of stories from which to pick. I could write about my many relatives—mother, father, brother, in-laws, aunts and uncles who were lucky enough to survive and whom I was fortunate enough to know. And I could write about the many more who did not survive. But I want to write about their true victory over the Shoah—the heroism that my parents and their contemporaries displayed by preserving their humanity and rebuilding lives and families.

My mother, Clara, was born in the town of Zloczow, then in Poland, now in Ukraine, about one-and-a-half hours east of Lvov. She was a young Zionist Socialist, and she married a man, Hillel, from her Hashomer Hatzair group. They had a child, Roald, in 1937. When Hitler and Stalin divided that part of the world between them, Zloczow fell under Soviet control. In

1941, the Nazis invaded. My mother was in the ghetto and then in a labor camp called Lackie. She kept her young son with her. Hillel was an engineer, and was needed by the Nazis to build roads, so he was able to leave the camp for some hours every day. He learned that the camp would be liquidated, and arranged for my mother and brother to be hidden by a Ukrainian schoolteacher whom he knew. This incredibly brave Ukrainian man, risking his life and the lives of his wife and family, hid them in the schoolhouse attic. Eventually, my mother's brother and his wife made their way there as well. Hillel never made it. He was shot. In the 18 months in the attic, my mother taught my brother to read, and kept him occupied with geography games such as "how would you travel from Uniow to San Francisco?" Many times the Nazis came and searched and the family hid behind a false wall in one of the classrooms-- as my mother told me, "It was good Roald was a quiet child." When the Russians staged their counteroffensive, my family left the attic and came back to Zloczow, where eventually my mother met my father, Paul Hoffman, another survivor with a story of his own. After a series of DP camps, they came to the U.S. in 1949—my mother, father, and my 11-year-old brother who, in his short life, had seen more horror than I can imagine. They settled in New York, and little by little, made their way. I was born in 1954, the year before my brother began college.

In 1996, my mother and brother were videotaped for Steven Spielberg's "Survivors of the Shoah." The taping was in my apartment, where my mother lived for the last 10 years of her life. My mother was pre-interviewed for three hours and taped for four. Roald was taped for two. After the taping, I asked Roald how it was for him. He said that he really didn't remember much. Mostly, he has no memory of feeling terrified despite all of the terror surrounding him. "There was so much love and security around me, I don't remember a feeling of terror in spite of everything that was happening. Maybe it is repression, maybe I was just too young. But there are some people who remember a great deal from their early lives." Despite the horror, my mother, her brothers, and eventually my father created, amazingly, an environment of love, warmth and even security for this young child during the worst of times.

We lost my father in 1981, sadly a few short months before my brother—the boy from the attic-- was awarded a Nobel Prize in chemistry. We lost my mother in 2006, at age 95. We were so lucky that she lived to know four beautiful grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

My parents and their contemporaries were heroes, not because of their survival, which was as much due to luck as anything else, but because of their ability to rebuild a life for themselves and their families. But here is another aspect of their heroism -- creating a cocoon of love and incredibly, security, for a young child in the midst of hell. How strong they were.



Roald Hoffmann, dancing at the Nobel Prize ceremony after winning a Nobel in Chemistry. Roald and his mother hid from the Nazis in an attic for 18 months; she taught him to read in that time and entertained him with geography games.

Candle lighter: Harry Klein, survivor

Harry L. Klein was born in 1940, in Budapest, Hungary. He joins us today with his "best friend and beautiful wife" Rachelle to honor their family. The Kleins have been blessed with three beautiful children, two sons (attorneys in private practice), a daughter, their wonderful spouses, and eighteen ("Chai") marvelous grandchildren.

The Kleins live in the Midwood section of Brooklyn and Harry has practiced law from his Court Street office for more than fifty years. These are his words.

My parents, Rabbi Naftali Klein and Rebbetzin Deborah Klein, of Blessed Memory, were born in the same Shtetel in Poland. Both were descendants of prominent rabbinical dynasties. My older sister Chana was born in the same shtetel.

When the war broke out in Poland, my parents and sister made safe passage to Budapest, Hungary, where I was born. When the Nazi invasion reached Hungary, and the killings and deportations to death camps began, my family went into hiding. On Friday, June 30, 1944, right before the start of Shabbos, a member of the Budapest "Judenrat" Jewish Rescue Agency, suddenly appeared at our door with a "time of the essence" offer. As many in the Budapest community knew, a special train had been commissioned by Reszo Kasztner, a Budapest attorney who had negotiated a deal directly with the infamous Adolf Eichmann to allow 1700 Jews transfer to a neutral country in exchange for 1700 trucks the Nazis wanted. The train was about to depart, and one family had changed their minds, leaving a spot open for us. My parents quickly decided to go. We gathered our things and ran to the train and a "miracle escape from the war."

The Allies raised strong opposition to the deal, fearing the trucks would be used against them. Negotiations began, and we were taken to the Bergen-Belsen camp as inmates. Upon arrival, we were separated by sex, counted, and given a number but not tattooed. Unlike the other prisoners at the camp, we were not beaten, tortured or killed, because the Nazis needed us for their deal. We were given limited rations, and part of our group died of starvation and the terrible conditions. After five months of confinement we were ordered to board the train again and were taken to the Austria-Switzerland border. A payment of \$1000 per passenger, approximately \$1.7 M in gold bullion, was made, and we were allowed to cross the border to the Jewish Rescue Agency representatives in Switzerland.



The Klein family



Many of our group remained in Switzerland. After the war, some traveled to the United States, Israel, and South America. We, along with a new baby sister, Rachel, left Zurich to emigrate to America in 1947. In 1948, my sister Adele was born.

My father, a Rabbi, also enjoyed business and invented and patented a three-way kitchen knife. He always spoke of the Holocaust, and the Kasztner train. At the Seder table he would give praise to "Hashem" for liberating the Jews from Egyptian bondage, and from Bergen-Belsen to America. He was an ardent Zionist and often visited Israel. He died there in 1979 after attending the wedding of a nephew. My mother died in 1998. Their graves lie side by side on the Mount of Olives facing the holy site of our holy temple.

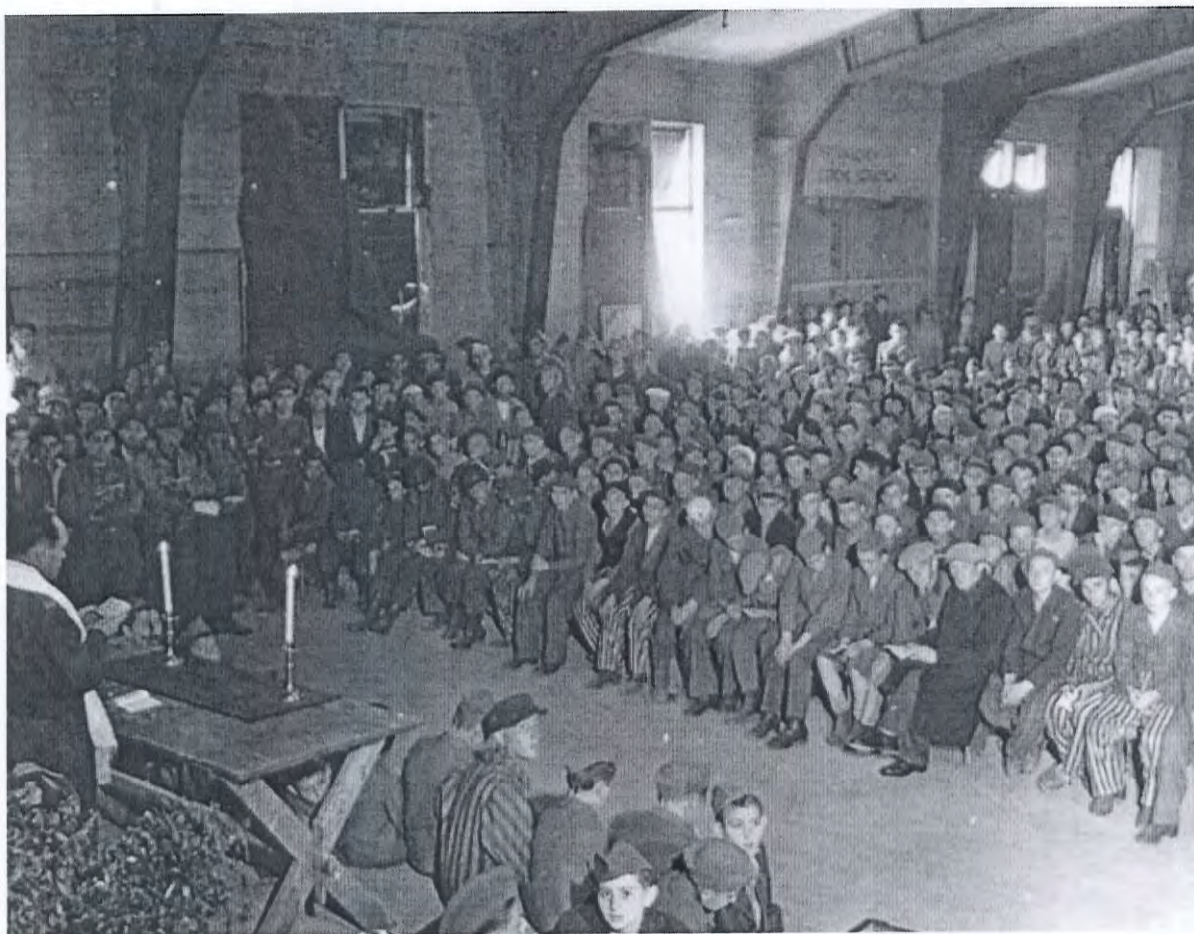
As the years pass by, more quickly now, it is important that children and descendants of the Holocaust families never forget what the Holocaust generation endured under the tyrannical reign of Hitler's Nazi Germany. Equally important is that the survivors of the Holocaust, with the kindness and blessings of "Hashem," got to begin new lives, rebuild shattered ones, and give birth to new and flourishing generations.

"Am Yisrael Chai"!!

**Candle lighter: Mitchell Schley
in memory of his father, David Schley**

David Schley was born in 1922 in Warsaw, Poland. He was the youngest of three boys. His father sold leather goods and his mother sold wigs. In 1940, when he was eighteen, the Germans occupied the Jewish Ghetto and surrounded it with a wall. In the following two years, the Germans sent 250,000 Jews to their death at the Treblinka concentration camp in Poland. Another 100,000 Warsaw Ghetto Jews died of disease and starvation.

In 1943, the Germans began a major round-up of the remaining Jews. This time, the Germans encountered Jewish armed resistance. The Warsaw Ghetto uprising, in which my father participated, lasted a few months until food and weapons ran out. My father was one of the last resistance fighters. He managed to survive a bullet wound and was transported to the Majdanek concentration camp. His parents and brothers were taken and killed in other concentration camps. All of my father's grandparents, uncles, and aunts were killed. Over the next two years, my father survived four more concentration camps. He was liberated from Buchenwald by the American Army on April 12, 1945. He then went with a group of young survivors to live in



Passover service held in the days after the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp. David Schley is in the first row, fifth from right, wearing a black coat. Services were conducted by U.S. Army Chaplain Rabbi Herschel Schacter, who entered the camp an hour after its breach by General Patton's tanks. Rabbi Herschel went from barracks to barracks telling those he found, "You are free." You can find the rabbi's obituary online.

Switzerland and relocated to the United States four years later. He worked as a garment factory knitter and married my mother in 1955. He devoted his life to his family, Zionism, Jewish culture, and the labor movement. In a remarkable coincidence, his first grandson was also born on April 12. He passed away two years ago at the age of 89.

**Candle lighter: Sharon
Sendyk Shulman
in memory of Abraham and
Helen Sendyk and family**

I light a candle today to honor my father and mother, survivors of the Holocaust, and for my grandparents and many relatives who perished in the Holocaust.

Abraham Sendyk was born in Alexander, a suburb of Lodz in Poland. His father died at a young age, as did his mother. He was left with two sisters and a brother when at the age of twenty he ran away with friends before the Nazis took over their town. My father was lucky; while he wore a yellow star, he was always one step ahead of a round up. He spent the war years running from Poland to Romania. He never knew how his two sisters and their families perished. His brother survived.



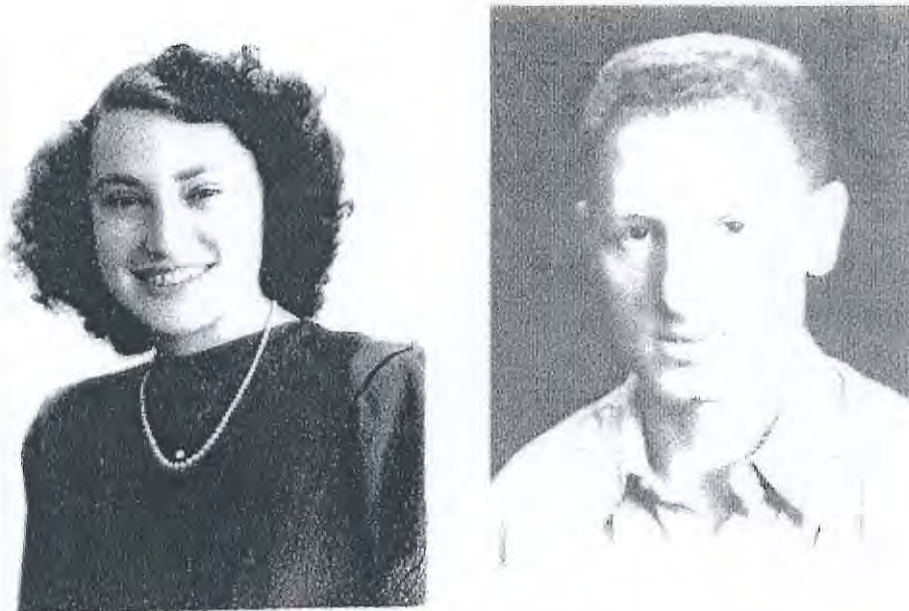
Abraham and Helen Sendyk

At the end of the war, having nowhere to go, my father boarded a ship to Palestine where he fought in 1948 for the establishment of the State of Israel. In 1954 he met Helen Stapler, a survivor. Helen was born in Chrzanow, Poland, a town not far from Auschwitz. She was the youngest of eight children. In 1939, her family lived under Nazi occupation. Times were hard, and food was scarce. Her oldest brother died while fighting in the Polish army. Three of her brothers fled with friends. One survived, one was shot by the Nazis, and another was taken to a Siberian work camp where he died. Her disabled sister was taken early by the Nazis with those who were infirm. Her married sister, husband, and baby were caught by the Nazis when a neighbor pointed out their hiding place in an attic. They were taken along with her parents to Auschwitz, where they perished. By 1942, Chrzanow was Judenrein - free of Jews.

My mother and her sister Nachia remained in forced labor camps until May, 1945, when

they were liberated by the Russians. My mother credited her sister with saving her life by giving up her own portions of food. When the war ended, the two sisters went to their hometown to see if anyone survived. Finding nothing to return to, they joined the illegal youth Aliyah program. They traveled in disguise through Europe until reaching Italy, where they took a boat to Palestine. My mother found one brother in Palestine. My mother was 18 years old and lived first in a youth village and then later with roommates in an apartment taking various jobs. In 1954 she married Abraham Sendyk. They had two children, my brother Howard and me. In 1962 we immigrated to the United States and settled in Brooklyn.

My parents were big proponents of education because theirs was abruptly halted in the war. My brother went to CCNY and I attended Brooklyn College and then went on to Law



School. My mother taught herself bookkeeping and worked for many years until retirement and a move to Florida.

My father never really spoke about the war, only giving occasional snippets about his time in Romania. But he did tape his testimony for the Steven Spielberg holocaust project. My mother always told stories about her home, about the war, and about the youth Aliyah movement. She wanted the generations to understand and remember what had happened. She felt that the numbers talked about were overwhelming and that only by making it personal did the history touch people. She decided to write her memoir. In fact, she published two books: "The End of Days," which was the story of her family and the war, and "New Dawn," which continued the saga of what happened to the survivors. My mother spoke at various organizations in New York and became a guest lecturer at Rutgers University and Brooklyn College, where her

book is used in their curriculum. When my parents retired to Florida, my mother helped attain legislation to teach holocaust studies in the Florida public schools. She then lectured at various public schools.

In June 2003, my mother became ill. She and my father moved in with my family in West Hempstead so she could receive treatment. I had the privilege of caring for my parents and teaching my children “Kibud Av Vem” (honoring ones parents). My mother died on December 31, 2004, and my father died seven months later, on July 27, 2005. They were survived by the joys of their lives, their children and grandchildren:

Howard & Lea Sendyk – Children; Yoni and Eli

Sharon & Alan Shulman – Children; Rikki, Dani, Eli, Adi and Lev.

I quote from “The End of Days” by Helen Sendyk:

Besides the precious few members of my own immediate family, my husband and I cultivated an extended family of survivors. Now...few members are left. .. I am now left a survivor of survivors. My drive to record, remember and remind comes from a need to articulate what these silent victims could not... You can be my survivors. Hear my story; take this great stone and pass it on to your children. Let my family be yours and let no one forget.

Candle Lighter: Esther Sonnenborn, survivor

In the spring of 1938, when I was 9 years old, the Nazis invaded Vienna, where I lived with my family—my mother, Regina, my father, Emanuel, and my younger brother, Eric. Many Austrian citizens stood three and four abreast on the sidewalk and greeted the Nazis with open arms, shouting “Heil Hitler” with fervor. From that day on my life was changed. Almost immediately all Jewish children were told to leave school. Some of us transferred to a Jewish school. I was in third grade. My time in the Jewish school did not last very long. On November 10, 1938, our apartment was invaded by storm troopers who stole whatever they wanted. I specifically remember one man who took our Chanukah menorah and threw it into the sack he carried with him. Seventy-five years later I still remember his face and every year when we light the Chanukah menorah I vividly remember the incident.

In December 1938, my dad and I took a train to Cologne, Germany. From there we con-

tinued on to Aachen, where we were supposed to meet a guide to take us over the border to Holland. The guide never showed up. Alone, we walked through the snow in the middle of the night until we finally reached the border.

After being grilled and searched by border guards, we were allowed to continue our journey. We arrived in Hilversum, Holland and stayed with a family my parents knew. While there, I contracted scarlet

fever, and as a result, the family we were staying with relocated their teenage daughter so they could continue to house me and my father.



Esther and Phil Sonnenborn

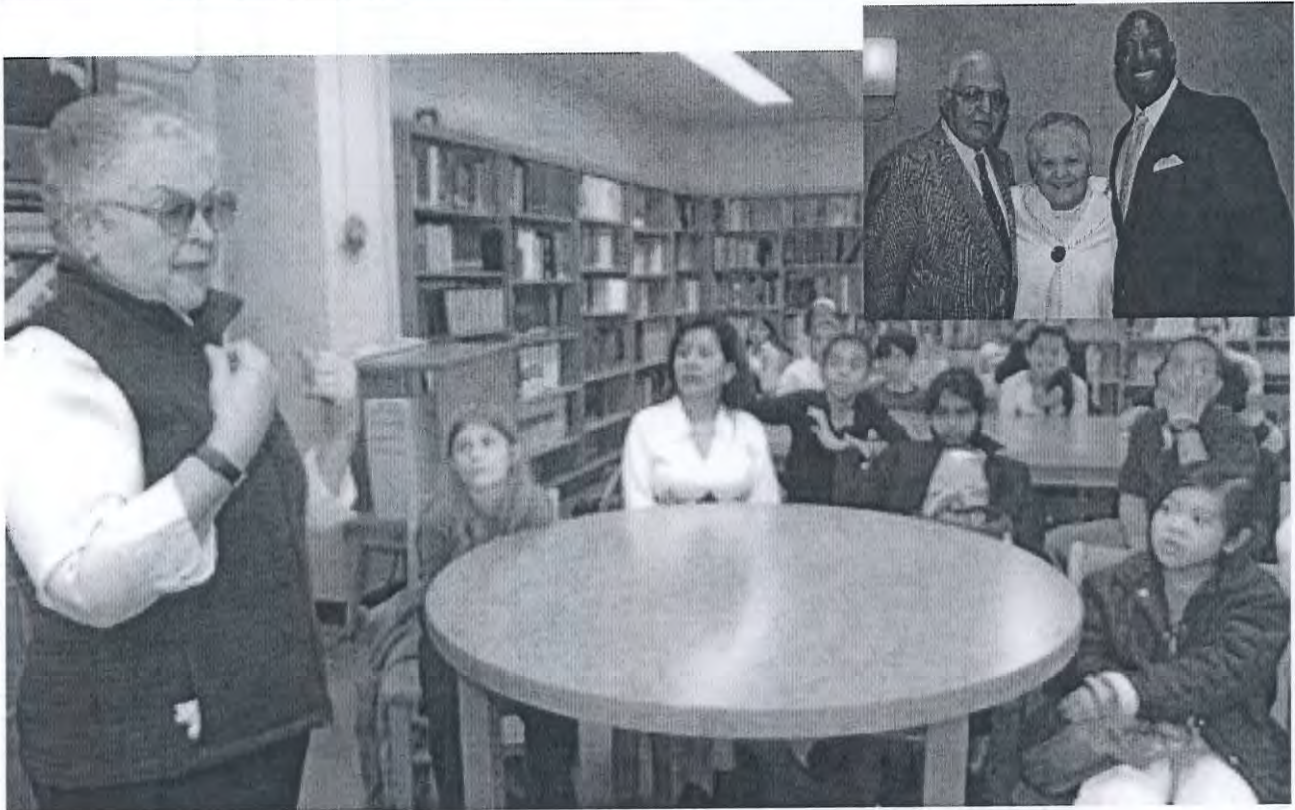
After three months in Hilversum we moved to Antwerp. There we met up with my mother and younger brother. Antwerp was pleasant until about 18 months later, when the Nazis invaded Belgium. In Antwerp, the invasion came from the sky in the form of paratroopers dressed as nuns.

We soon left Belgium and moved to France. We lived in Aix Les Thermes in the Pyrenees. Life there was also enjoyable; probably because I was too young to appreciate the danger. After we obtained our visas to come to the United States, we moved to Lisbon. We boarded the ship Serpa Pinto which took us to New York in June of 1942.

We lived in the Bronx, first in a cramped apartment with my grandparents and then finally in our own apartment on Davidson Avenue. I began school that September, learning my fifth different language in five years!

I met my husband, Phil Sonneborn, whose family's roots in America dated back to before the Revolution, got married and gave birth to two daughters, both of whom became lawyers. Three of my five grandchildren are going into law, two are lawyers, and one is in law school.

Keynote Presenter: Sally Frishberg



Sally Frishberg visiting a school; inset with Bill Tingling, right.

I am a Jewish Holocaust survivor. For many years now, my colleague Bill Tingling and I have spoken at schools all over the New York City, talking to thousands of children and teenagers of diverse ethnic backgrounds, helping them understand how important it is that they do whatever it takes to prevent bigotry, prejudice, and intolerance. We visit the schools to communicate the importance of loving one other.

When the Nazis invaded my country, Poland, in 1939, they started murdering Jews: mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. As a child, I was once unusually quiet. My face was round, my hair short, silvery, and curly. Two days after I started school the Nazis banned education for Jews, and the teachers and other children swiftly ostracized me. They did not want to talk or sit next to me; they said hurtful things about me.

Things got worse and worse, until, late one night, knowing that our physical safety was threatened, my family fled our home under cover of darkness, determined to hide from the Nazis and to live. We took refuge in the attic of a Catholic man's barn. His attic hid other Jewish

people, too. Finally, 15 people crammed into his little barn attic, surviving on what scraps of food the man was able to bring. We never spoke lest someone find us. My father would mouth stories from the newspaper and the family would read his lips.

The Polish man asked us to promise that we would never reveal his name, and we promised. For years, I refused to reveal the name of the Polish man who hid me and my family in his barn, keeping the promise I, and all the Jews the brave man hid, had made. But in 1997, after his death, I sent a letter to his wife requesting permission to reveal her husband's name in a story, and she gave her permission. His name was Stanislaw Grocholski, and may God bless his soul.

Four years after the Soviets liberated us in 1944, my family traveled by boat to the United States. I was 13 years old. On the way to America, a European woman chided me because I had jumped onto a bunk she wanted for herself.

"You dirty little Jew! If I had my way, you'd all be dead!" she said. "Hitler should have killed you all!" Seeing the misery my face, an African-American matron woman on the ship folded me in her arms, rocked me, and comforted me. I realized that somebody cared, even though I did not speak a word of English and did not understand what the African-American woman was saying. She was a Black American, I was a European Jew. We knew nothing of one another's language, but she understood my simple human need and put her arms around me.

I learned that decent people can do extraordinary things, but we don't always know who the lovely, decent people are. You have to show signs of the extraordinary love and courage you may possess. You have to reach out when it is called for and sometimes even take risky actions.

When I arrived in the United States, I could not speak a word of English. But I learned, eventually became a school teacher, and taught for years at Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn. I retired in 1991. I think that I was saved from the Holocaust so I could help guide the children and adults of my community toward an understanding of our human connection, an understanding that could make it harder to repeat the world's past mistakes.

Can the Holocaust happen again? Yes, it could. Tragedy could happen again. I want young people to be alert, aware, eyes wide open, willing to act for our common good when necessary. That is why Mr. Tingling and I keep traveling to different schools in different communities, at each visit talking about loving and looking out for one another.

Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center Exhibit



The 2014 Holocaust Remembrance Program included *Cruel Correspondence, Anti-Semitic Postcards 1895—1930*, a collection generously loaned to the court by Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center & Archives at Queensborough Community College (CUNY). Bought and sent by the general population, postcards of the type exhibited made a hate-filled case for ostracism of Jews, associating them with control of capital, schemes of world domination, and involvement in communist plots. Top, a postcard boasts in verse that Jews are not allowed to visit the attractive German seaside resort its illustration depicts. Right, a British postcard shows musicians playing Christmas carols, awakening two Jews who lean from their window, enormous noses prominent. The card hints that there is some Jewish menace of which Christians should take heed. As noted in the Forward, the postcards remind us that anti-Semitism was not only fostered by political leaders, but an attitude long woven into the stuff of daily living in both the US and Europe that helped enable the Holocaust.



Holocaust Remembrance Program Special Film Screenings 2011—2014

In 2011 the court began to include lunchtime film screenings as part of its Holocaust Remembrance Program. The first film screened, *A Cantor's Tale* (left) offers an engaging portrait of Jewish liturgical music as captured through the life story of world-renowned Brooklyn cantor Jacob Mendelson, who was also the Program's featured speaker in 2011. Vignettes of Cantor Mendelson's present-day teaching and singing highlight the fact that the cantor's tradition is not only a precious Jewish heirloom, but a deeply relevant modern practice.



In 2011 and 2012 the court showed the documentary, *The Warsaw Ghetto* (ca. 1940-1943) (left). Using Nazi propaganda footage shot in the ghetto, the film shows Jews' struggle to survive conditions of unthinkable inhumanity, and depicts the armed uprising and its ultimate defeat.

The Lady in Number 6, screened in 2014, tells the uplifting and inspirational story of 109-year-old Alice Herz Sommer, the world's oldest pianist and

Holocaust survivor. Imprisoned with her six-year-old son, Raphael, in Theresienstadt concentration camp, Alice was allowed to survive by her Nazi captors in order to perform her extraordinary music for them. Alice's lasting joy in music illuminates our human ability to reach for what is noble even in the most horrific of times.



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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: TECH ABUSE

featuring a special presentation
by Ian Harris, Esq.

Ian Harris is a staff attorney with New York Legal Assistance Group's Matrimonial & Family Law Unit where he represents survivors of intimate partner abuse in family, matrimonial, and immigration matters. Mr. Harris is the secretary for the New York City Bar Association Domestic Violence Committee. He received his J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law and an M.A. from the American University School of International Service.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.
Supreme Court, 60 Centre Street, New York, New York
Norman Goodman Jury Assembly Room, 452
This event is free and open to the public.

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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

TECH ABUSE

**November 20, 2014
1:00 P.M.
Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term
Norman Goodman Jury Assembly Room**

The 2014 Domestic Violence Awareness Program

Welcome

Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler,
Administrative Judge For Civil
Matters, First Judicial District

Opening Remarks &
Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

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

Keynote Speaker

Ian Harris, Esq.
New York Legal Assistance Group

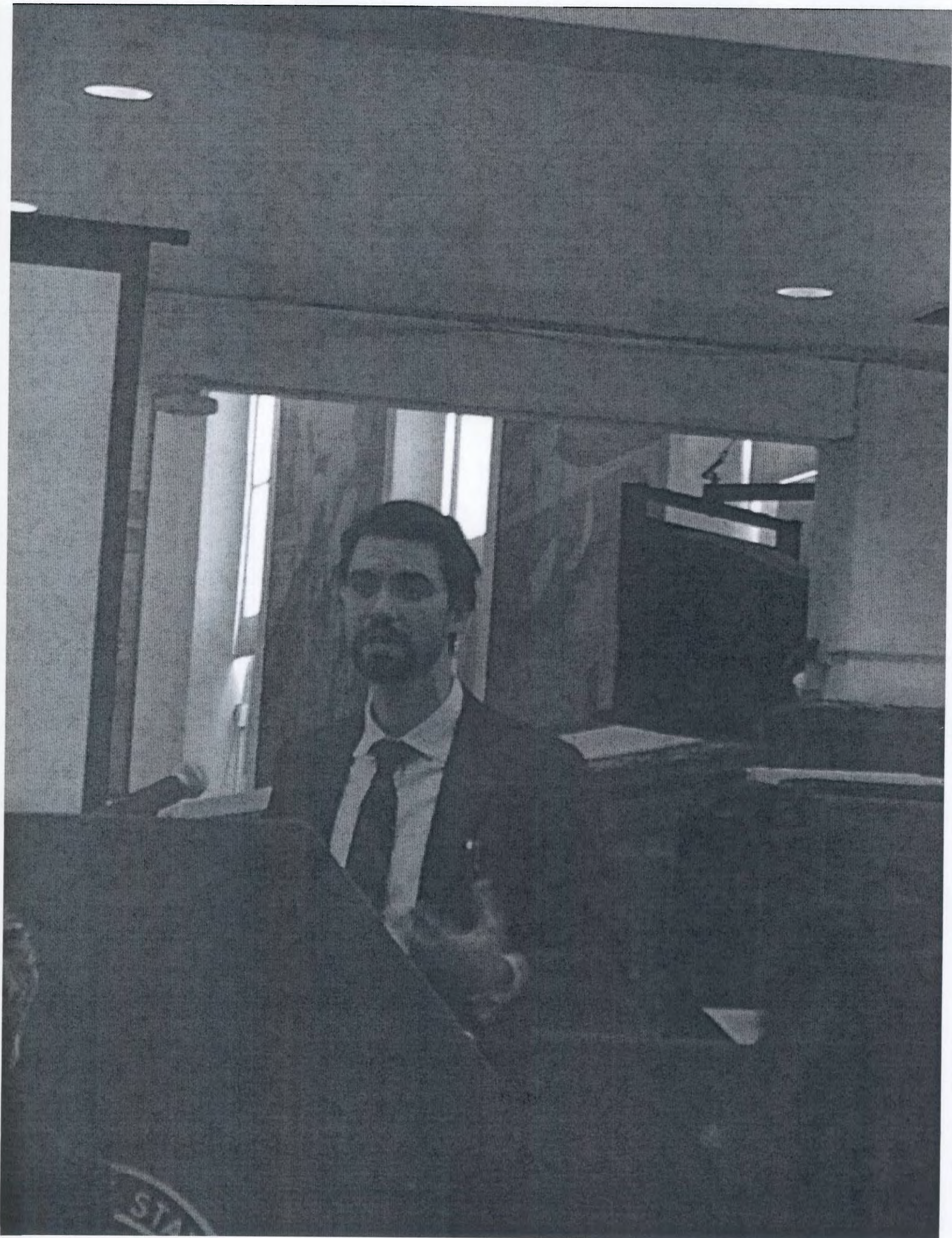
Closing Presentation

Hon. Matthew Cooper and
Gregory Testa, Esq.,
Co-Chairpersons of the Domestic
Violence Subcommittee

Special Thanks to Hon. Norman Goodman, John Werner, Esq., Simone Abrams, Doina Almazon, Luis Carrero, Ray Denton, Camy Foureau, P.J. Garone, Michelle Gonsieski, Cecily Hernandez, Irene Laracuenta, Valerie Qualls, Naomi Ruiz, and Loren Schwartz.

Ian Harris, Esq.

Ian Harris is a staff attorney with New York Legal Assistance Group's Matrimonial and Family Law Unit where he represents survivors of intimate partner abuse in family, matrimonial, and immigration matters. Mr. Harris is the secretary for the New York City Bar Association Domestic Violence Committee. He received his J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law and an M.A. from the American University School of International Service.



*Gender Fairness Committee,
New York County Criminal Court*

Hon. Lisa Sokoloff, Chair

Janet Curley, Chair

New York County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee

Chair(s): *Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff & Janet Curley, Senior Court Clerk*

Members: *Xiomara Bryson, Criminal Court Resource Coordinator, James G. Clynes, Court Attorney, Dawn Cunningham, Sr. Court Office Asst. , Janet Curley, Sr. Court Clerk, Hon. Bruna DiBiase, Hon. Erika Edwards , Cristina Garcia, Court Attorney, Alana Gardner, Court Attorney. Bonnie Laurie, Sr. Court Clerk, Darlene Moore McNeil, Court Officer , Mauline Murrell, Associate Court Clerk, Belinda PETERS, Sr. Court Clerk, Renee Reddick, Court Officer, Judith Rifkin, Court Attorney , Kelli Sheppard-Small , Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff , Hon. Steven Statsinger , Regan William, Court Clerks, Shehre Yaseen, Data Record Asst.*

Counties Served: *New York*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *2/16/2014, 9/4/2014, 10/21/2014, 12/11/2014*

Average Attendance: *6 - 8*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

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

2014 Special Events

Special Events or Activities Included:

- *05/19/2014 Human Trafficking CLE*
- *Tricked, a documentary from 3 Generations by Jane Wells and John-Keith Wasson was screened on 5/13/14, 5/15/14 and 5/19/14.*
- *11/13/2014 Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions CLE*

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed? *Email, Flyer, and Bar Association website and e-blast*

Who and how many attended? *Approximately 100.*

Was there any press before or after? *No*

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Programs on the following issues:

- *Issues that confront the LGBT community in criminal court including domestic violence*

- *The global epidemic of counterfeit products*
- *Identity theft*
- *Programs for defendants with mental health and/or substance abuse issues*

Collaboration

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

New York Women's Bar Association

New York Chapter, National Association of Women Judges

NYWBA

NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Co-sponsors:

NYWBA Committees on Criminal Law, International Human Rights and Children's Rights
NY County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee
National Association of Women Judges, New York Chapter
NY Criminal Bar Association

Present

Human Trafficking: Stemming the Tide



Date: Monday, May 19, 2014

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: US District Court, Southern District
500 Pearl Street
Ceremonial Courtroom 9C

CLE: 2 CLE Credits *

Cost: Free

RSVP: Register at nywba.org: click on calendar (left side) and then on the event

Featuring

Moderator, **Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff**, NYC Civil Court Judge

Kate Mogulescu

Founder and Supervising Attorney, Legal Aid Society's Trafficking Victims Advocacy Project

John Temple

Attorney-in-Charge, Human Trafficking Program, New York County District Attorney's Office

Lori Cohen

Director, Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Sanctuary for Families

Miriam Goodman

Coordinator of Trafficking Programs at the Center for Court Innovation

Anthony Favale

Deputy Inspector, NYPD Vice Enforcement Division Coordinator

Stephen De Luca

ECPAT-USA Board of Advisors

"Tricked"

**a documentary from 3 Generations
by Jane Wells and John-Keith Wasson**

Tricked will be aired at NYC Criminal Court, 100 Centre Street

Tuesday 5/13/14 5:30-7pm Courtroom 170

Thursday 5/15/14 1-2:30pm Courtroom 535 (Jury 2)

Monday 5/19/14 1-2:30pm Courtroom 170

* for an additional hour of CLE credit



THE NY COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

In association with

THE NY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Present

COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES
OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS &
OTHER DISPOSITIONS

Thursday, November 13, 2014

100 CENTRE STREET

JURY 2 - ROOM 535

1:00pm

Speakers-

Robert DeLeon- Associate Director of Youth Programs - CASES

Janet Curley-Senior Court Clerk - Manhattan Criminal Court

Xavier Donaldson, Esq. - Criminal Defense and Civil Attorney

Ward Oliver, Esq.- Supervising Attorney - Legal Aid Society

Marlen Bodden, Esq. - Staff Attorney - Legal Aid Society

MODERATOR- Honorable Erika Edwards

All are welcome to attend

Light refreshments will be served

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

Hon. Gloria Dabiri, Chair

Supreme Court Kings County Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term

Chair: *Gloria M. Dabiri, Justice, Supreme Court*

Members: *Hon. Rachel Adams, Hon. Betsy Barros, Hon. Bernadette Bayne, Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix, Hon. Karen B. Rothenberg, Hon. Marsha Steinhardt, Hon. Nancy Sunshine, Hon. Delores Thomas, Hon., Albert Tomei, Hon. Michelle Weston, Loretta Argiro, Major Luz Bryan, Hon. Sylvia Ash, Hon. Wavny Toussaint, Lucinda DiSalvo, Donna Farrell, Dina James, Charmaine Johnson, Izetta Johnson, Grace Machuca, Yvonne Marin, Esq., Jeanette Mercedes, Esq., Roderick E. Randall, Leah Richardson, Noreen Soto-Fier, Esq., Pamela Goldsmith, Shirley Paul, Esq., Carmen Mitchell*

Counties Served: *Kings*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *Feb 19, 2014, March 6, 2014, March 11, 2014, March 20, 2014, April 8, 2014, April 9, 2014, May 6, 2014, January 16, 2014 . Most of the Committee's work is performed in subcommittees.*

Average Attendance: *6*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

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

Please share any areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts?

- *A series of two interactive workshops on Dating Violence and on Healthy Relationships was held for more than 60 high school and college Summer Youth Employment, civil and criminal term, interns. The first session was facilitated by Safe Horizon and the second by the NYC Mayor's Training Academy.*
- *Our "Ruth E Moskowitz Award" program celebrated the accomplishments of five extraordinary women working within the courts. More than 140 court employees and community members attended.*
- *Twenty year old author Atiba Clarke spoke with a Summer Youth Employment intern about writing his book, the challenges of cerebral palsy and achieving one of his goals in meeting Beyoncé.*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

"LET'S CAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE" Food and Clothing Drive. October 2014 through November 12, 2014. The Gender Fairness Committee collected from court employees non-perishable food items, toys books and children's clothing for the benefit of families served by the Family Justice Center of Brooklyn. More than eight boxes of food and seven bags of children's clothing, toys and books were donated. Members of this subcommittee were Yvonne Marin, Grace Machuca, Sylvia Rodriguez, Dawn Sajecki and Charmaine Johnson.

Activities for Women's History Month:

"THE RUTH E. MOSKOWITZ AWARDS" program and reception was held on March 27, 2014. In keeping with the National Women's Month theme - "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment" - the Gender Fairness Committee honored four extraordinary women working within our courts - Izetta C. Johnson [Senior Management Analysis and Equal Employment Opportunity Officer] ; Lizette Colon [Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve and Law Clerk to Supreme Court Justice Kenneth Sherman]; Arlene M. Markarian [Executive Assistant District Attorney, Domestic Violence Bureau, and Chief of the Elder Abuse Unit]; and Charmaine E. Henderson [Supreme Court Special Referee, and Instructor, New York Insight Meditation Center]. The event was co-sponsored by The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association. Approximately 140 people attended. Members of this subcommittee were Justice Marsha Steinhardt, Justice Gloria Dabiri, Justice Rachel Adams, Justice Karen Rothenberg, Yvonne Marin, Esq., Dina James, Grace Machuca and Donna Farrell.

Other Special Events or Activities:

- *"BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY" April 17, 2014. In partnership with the Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee, Criminal Term, the courts hosted the children of employees, ages 7 through 14, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters, Justice Mathew D'Emic, and Chair of The Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee, Criminal Term, Justice Patricia Henry, welcomed the children. The children then participated in workshops on the importance of jury service, eye witness testimony, youth and the courts, sign language, volunteer service and meditation. The event, including presentations, gift bags and snacks, was made possible through collaboration with The New York State Court Clerks Association, The New York State Court Officers Association, The Tribune Society, Inc., The Celtics, Local 1070 District Council 37, Amicus Curiae, Columbian Lawyers Association,*
- *"STOP DATING VIOLENCE" Workshop, July 9, 2014. The Safe Horizon Brooklyn Community Program presented a workshop for more than sixty high school and college interns participating in the courts' (civil and criminal terms) Summer Youth Employment and Internship program. Jessica LaHood, Brenda Jones, McQuita James and Maria Lancis*

of Safe Horizon divided the students into two groups and facilitated interactive discussions addressing the signs of an unhealthy relationship including intimidation, possessiveness, verbal, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

- *"HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS" Workshop, July 28, 2014. The New York City Mayor's Office Training Academy facilitated this training for more than sixty Summer Youth Employment and Internship students. Farley Pierre Lewis engaged the students in a frank and detailed discussion on the elements of a healthy relationship and the importance of clear communication and boundaries. Students completed pre and post workshop surveys assessing their understanding of the subject. Breakfast for the students was provided by Administrative Judge Lawrence Knipel.*
- *UNEXPECTED WORDS FROM A GIFTED ANGEL" a book by Atiba Clarke. July 21, 2014. The Gender Fairness Committee hosted the Summer Youth Employment interns for a presentation by, and discussion with, 20 year old author Atiba Clarke who read passages from his book and discussed the challenges of cerebral palsy and being wheel chair bound, his motivation for writing the book and his meeting with Beyoncé.*

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email, Mail, Flyer, Employee Space, Kings County USC employee website

Who and how many attended?

Court employees, community members, judges, attorneys, student interns. More than 140 at the Awards program. More than 60 at the student workshops and Bring Your Child to Work Day program.

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

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Workshops for students and the elderly

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015?

January, February, March, April, September, October

Concerns

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

Per our court's Help Center, foreign women without legal immigration status are frequently concerned for their safety and that of their children when seeking divorce and support from

spouses or significant others. Pro se litigants filing Habeas Corpus petitions for the return of children in placement.

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

Do you see unmet training needs? *Sexual and other harassment in the workplace - How to identify it when it begins and what to do about it.*

Educational Programs and Projects

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

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

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

Collaboration

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

Bar Associations; Colleges; Domestic Violence Organizations; Sexual Assault Organizations; Judicial Institute; State, city and federal agencies, including the New York City Board of Education and the Mayor's Office; Domestic Violence Shelters and organizations; Court employee unions and organizations; Bar associations; Community leaders; and Religious organizations.

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *Venues, speakers and other resources*

In Celebration of Women's History Month

**"WOMEN OF CHARACTER,
COURAGE AND COMMITMENT"**

The Supreme Court Kings County
Gender Fairness Committee, Civil Term and the
Brooklyn Women's Bar Association

proudly present

*The Ruth E. Moskowitz
Award*

to

Izetta C. Johnson

Lizette Colon, Esq.

Arlene M. Markarian, Esq.

Charmaine E. Henderson, Esq.

**Thursday, March 27, 2014, 1:15 PM
360 Adams Street, Room 319**

All Welcome- Light Reception to Follow

Izetta C. Johnson is currently a Senior Management Analyst at Kings Supreme Court. Her responsibilities include management of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office and the Criminal Term Correspondence Unit. She is the intake point and sounding board for claims of discrimination and harassment brought by court personnel. She trains non-judicial personnel; coordinates the courts' outreach efforts; and conducts programs and workshops that prepare students for the world of work by giving them an opportunity to acquire practical, hands-on job experience through court structured internship programs.

For the past two years she has supervised the Criminal Term Correspondence Unit. Along with the IT Department, she developed a program which allows the tracking of all criminal term correspondences, making the unit more accountable and effective.

Izetta serves on numerous court committees which foster equal employment opportunities and enhance the quality of the workplace for Kings Supreme personnel. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Kings County Courts Law Libraries, where she coordinates the Sobel Fellows, internships given annually to minority students pursuing a career in Law Library Science. Izetta also serves as Co-Chair of the HIV/AIDS Ministry at her church, where she educates and provides free HIV/AIDS testing for members of her community.

Izetta C. Johnson studied at the State University of New York- Empire State College. And also attended the State University of New York in Albany - Court Management Program.

She is the first recipient of the Milton Mollen Award given by the Appellate Division to non-judicial employees. She has received special recognition for her work promoting racial and ethnic harmony throughout Brooklyn, including proclamations and citations from Governor Mario Cuomo, Governor George Pataki, the New York State Assembly, the New York City Council, and Brooklyn Borough Presidents Howard Golden and Marty Markowitz.

ARLENE M. MARKARIAN

Arlene Markarian has been an Assistant District Attorney with the Kings County District Attorney's Office since 1990. She is currently an Executive Assistant District Attorney in the Domestic Violence Bureau and has been Chief of its Elder Abuse Unit since its creation in 1999. She has supervised the prosecution of thousands of elder abuse cases assigned to the Unit.

Under Arlene Markarian's supervision, the Elder Abuse Unit has grown from a staff of one to a staff of seven, including a Senior Assistant District Attorney, Assistant District Attorney, a Unit Coordinator, Victim Advocate and Investigating Paralegal. The Elder Abuse Unit was one of only nine offices in the country to win a federal elder abuse grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women which will provide direct services to elder abuse victims as well as training for law enforcement, prosecutors, service providers and the judiciary.

A.D.A. Markarian regularly conducts training for District Attorney's Offices, the New York Prosecutors Training Institute, the New York City Police Department, the NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Adult Protective Services, hospitals, senior service providers and many other agencies, both locally and nationwide, addressing the detection, investigation and prosecution of domestic violence and elder abuse cases. Arlene is a founding member of the NYC Elder Abuse Center's Steering Committee, a first-of-its-kind initiative in New York State, and as a key leader of this collaborative venture, was highly influential in bringing its Multidisciplinary Team to Brooklyn. Arlene is also a delegate to New York's inaugural WINGS (Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders) core group, a New York State Unified Court System grant-funded project which will serve as a sustainable collaborative mechanism, for improving the State's adult guardianship system.

In addition to homicides and high publicity cases, A.D.A. Markarian has successfully prosecuted a large variety of domestic violence and elder abuse cases including attempted murder, conspiracy, assault, kidnapping, burglary, grand larceny and criminal contempt, including cases in which the victim testified for the defense.

Arlene Markarian received her Juris Doctor from St. John's University School of Law in June, 1988 and was admitted to the New York State Bar in January 1989. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1985 from St. John's University.

SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE, CIVIL TERM AND THE BROOKLYN WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

proudly present

In Celebration of Women's History Month

The Ruth E. Moskowitz Award

to

*Izetta C. Johnson
Lizette Colon, Esq.
Arlene M. Markarian, Esq.
Charmaine E. Henderson, Esq.*

Thursday, March 27, 2014, 1:15 p.m.
Kings Supreme Court - 360 Adams Street



Hon. Lawrence Knipel, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters
Hon. Gloria M. Dabiri, Chair, Gender Fairness Committee
Holly Peck, Esq., President Brooklyn Women's Bar Association

P R O G R A M

Greetings

Hon. Gloria M. Dabiri, Chair
Sup. Ct. Gender Fairness Committee, Civil Term

St. Augustine Gospel Chorus
Kurt Faussette, Director

Remarks

Hon. Lawrence Knipel, Administrative Judge
for Civil Matters, 2nd Judicial District

Holly E. Peck, Esq., President
Brooklyn Women's Bar Association

Charles A. Small, Esq.
Chief Clerk for Civil Matters

Presentation of Awards

Hon. Karen B. Rothenberg
Arlene M. Markarian, Esq.

Yvonne R. Marin, Esq.
Izetta C. Johnson

Hon. Jeffrey Sunshine
Charmaine E. Henderson, Esq.

Grace Machuca, Mgt. Analyst
Lizette Colon, Esq.

St. Augustine Gospel Chorus

Reception

LIZETTE COLON

Lizette joined the U.S. Army at the age of 18 as an enlisted soldier and currently holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. She was mobilized for the Global War on Terror, serving on active duty from 2003 to 2005, both in the Pentagon and in Iraq.

In 1991, Lizette began her career in the courts as a Spanish language court interpreter. Her parents arrived in New York City from the island of Puerto Rico, and although Lizette was born and raised in New York City, she learned and retained the Spanish language and culture. In 1996 she was promoted to Senior Court Clerk, working in the Supreme Court, New York County, full time, while she attended law school at night. Lizette graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1998 and continued to work in the courts. In 2006, she became law clerk to the Hon. Kenneth P. Sherman. During her tenure with Judge Sherman, she served as his Trial Part Law Clerk in Civil Court, and continued her tenure with Judge Sherman while he was Supervising Judge of the Civil Court and then a justice of the Supreme Court.

Lizette effectively manages the challenges of raising an autistic child, while excelling in her careers as an attorney and military officer, at the courthouse and in the military, and serving her local community. Lizette sits on the board of a not-for-profit that serves the disabled. Her life is a testament to her courage, determination and commitment to serve.

CHARMAINE E. HENDERSON

Charmaine E. Henderson graduated from the University of California, Davis, School of Law (King Hall) in May 1981. She decided to become an attorney after participating in an unsuccessful employee unionizing campaign while working in an electronics factory in Goleta Valley, California. During law school she interned at the general counsel's office of District Council 37 in New York City and after moving to New York returned to work there as an Assistant General Counsel. Before her admission to the First Department in May 1982 she was employed by the Workers Defense League on a research project involving migrant farmworker peonage labor on the East Coast. Later she assisted in the creation of a program providing representation to workers filing unemployment insurance claims.

After leaving District Council 37 in 1985 Charmaine opened an office for the private practice with Diane M. Morrison. For the next eleven years she represented adults and children in Family Court, served on the Assigned Counsel Panel and represented clients in general legal matters. During this time she served as a volunteer attorney with the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and with Law Stop and its successor, a general legal clinic offered through the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community Center in Manhattan. She is a founding member of the Bar Association for Human Rights of Greater New York, the predecessor to LeGaL, the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York.

In June 1996 Charmaine came to work at the Supreme Court, Kings County, in the matrimonial part, as a court attorney to the Honorable Virginia E. Yancey, Justice of the Supreme Court (by designation). Charmaine became a special referee in the Supreme Court, Richmond County, in 2004, hearing cases involving financial issues in connection with divorce actions. She continued in that role after transferring to Kings County in 2006. Charmaine is a member of the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, the Brooklyn Bar Association and LeGaL. During the last fifteen years Charmaine has served as a teacher and board member of New York Insight Meditation Center, teaching meditation courses and facilitating retreats. Over the past six years Charmaine has been privileged to serve as a supportive resource for colleagues by leading an almost weekly session in mindfulness meditation for the court community.

IZETTA C. JOHNSON

Izetta C. Johnson began her career in the courts more than 34 years ago, working for the Director of Administration in Nassau County. She then joined the Budget Office for the Office of Court Administration, served on adjunct committees, and then came to Brooklyn where she has been an integral part of the Kings Supreme Court for the past 30 years.

B'klyn Legal Community Presents Notable 'Ruthie' Awards

By Charisma L. Miller, Esq.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle

The Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee and the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association joined together once again, on Thursday, to acknowledge the accomplishments and achievements of distinguished female members of the Brooklyn legal community.

Four women—Lizette Colon, Charmaine Henderson, Izetta Johnson and Arlene Markarian—were presented with the annual Ruth E. Moskowitz award for their dedication

"These women have all left footprints," said Brooklyn's Chief Clerk for Civil Matters, Charles Smalls.

Members of the late Moskowitz's family were in attendance, including her husband, her sister and her stepson Robert Gershon.

"Nothing like this has ever happened to me before," exclaimed the event's first award recipient, Arlene Markarian. Markarian is the chief of the Elder Abuse Unit for the Brooklyn DA's Office and oversees the prosecution of those who commit crimes against elders and

fought back tears. "We forge on in spite of ourselves."

Charmaine Henderson, who works with divorce litigants, gave her acceptance speech in a soothing voice that evidenced her commitment to mindful meditation retreats, as referenced by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Jeffery Sunshine, who enthusiastically introduced Henderson and presented her award. "When I need to be calm, I think of Charmaine," Sunshine remarked.

A quiet force, Henderson commented that she was initially unsure "how someone who deliberately keeps a low profile was being recognized."



LIZETTE COLON, ARLENE M. MARKARIAN; HOLLY PECK, PRESIDENT OF THE BROOKLYN WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION; IZETTA C. JOHNSON, Hon. Gloria M. Dabiri, Charmaine E. Henderson, Yvonne R. Marin and Grace Machuca.

Eagle photo by Rob Abruzzese.

to judicial independence and civil rights.

The theme for this year's event, "character, courage, and commitment," was the embodiment of the individual the award is named after. Moskowitz, in 1976, was the first woman elected to the Brooklyn Supreme Court.

Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Gloria Dabiri, the chair of the Gender Fairness Committee, served as mistress of ceremonies for the event and introduced the musical guests St. Augustine Gospel Choir. Addressing the audience, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters Lawrence Knipel made note of the recent appointment of his counterpart in Criminal Matters, commenting that Hon. Matthew D'Emic was a "home-run appointment."

Returning to the honorees, Knipel referred to the "distinction" by which the women serve the "court system and the Brooklyn legal system."

other forms of domestic abuse.

"Her expertise has been nationally recognized," noted Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Karen Rothenberg. Markarian was cheered on by a number of her colleagues from the DA's Office who were present in the audience.

Introducing award recipient Izetta Johnson was an easy task for court attorney Yvonne Marin. "Clap if you know Izetta," Marin remarked to a roar of cheers. Not needing an introduction but definitely deserving of one, "Izetta is committed to her job, the community, and every man, woman and child," Marin said. "It is the contagious smile," Marin noted, as Johnson could not contain her cheerful grin.

Johnson proclaimed how "humbling" it was to "be thought of in association with this year's theme and Ruth Moskowitz." As a woman, the "everyday annoyances test our courage," Johnson said as she

Henderson accepted her reward on behalf of "all of those in the court who get things done in an inconspicuous way."

The event's final recipient, court attorney Lizette Colon, "displays this year's theme in her professional and personal life," said Grace Machuca. After an active career in the U.S. military, Colon went to law school at night while working a full-time job and raising an autistic son.

"I have been blessed having a wonderful family and a pack of wonderful colleagues," Colon said in her acceptance speech. Colon reminded the audience of the "long way" women have come and of the "road that lies ahead of us."

As harrowing as the road may seem, Johnson reminded the audience that "being of courage, character and commitment is what we do as women all day and everyday. When life throws you a curve ball, catch it."

The Kings County Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term

Let's CAN Domestic Violence!

Brooklyn's NYC Family Justice Center needs our help,
its food pantry is bare . . .



Suggested Non-Perishable Items:

Meals in a can (stew, chili, soup) / Tuna / Canned Meat
Peanut butter/ Beans / Low-sugar cereals / Pasta / Rice / Pancake mix
Canned Vegetables / Graham Crackers / Applesauce Cheese and Crackers
Raisins / Fruit Cups / Pretzels / Granola Bars /Fruit juice boxes
Baby Foods / Baby Formula / Baby Cereal / Diapers sizes 3 - 6
Gently Used Children's Clothing

Donations until November 17, 2014

Drop Off Locations:

Grace Machuca rm. 285 / Dawn Sajecki rm. 948 / Yvonne Marin rm. 1058
Sylvia Rodriguez rm. 1130 / Charmaine Johnson rm. 1161





Kings County Supreme Court
Gender Fairness Committee, Civil Term

Healthy Relationship Training

presented by

NYC Mayor's Office

July 28, 2014

9:00 - 10:30 A.M.

11th floor boardroom

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

WORKSHOP REMINDER

DATING & VIOLENCE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

360 ADAMS STREET

ROOM 956 -

THIS WORKSHOP IS HELD DURING THE LUNCH PERIOD.
PLEASE ALLOW TIME FOR YOUR INTERN TO GET LUNCH
AND REPORT TO THE MEETING ON TIME.

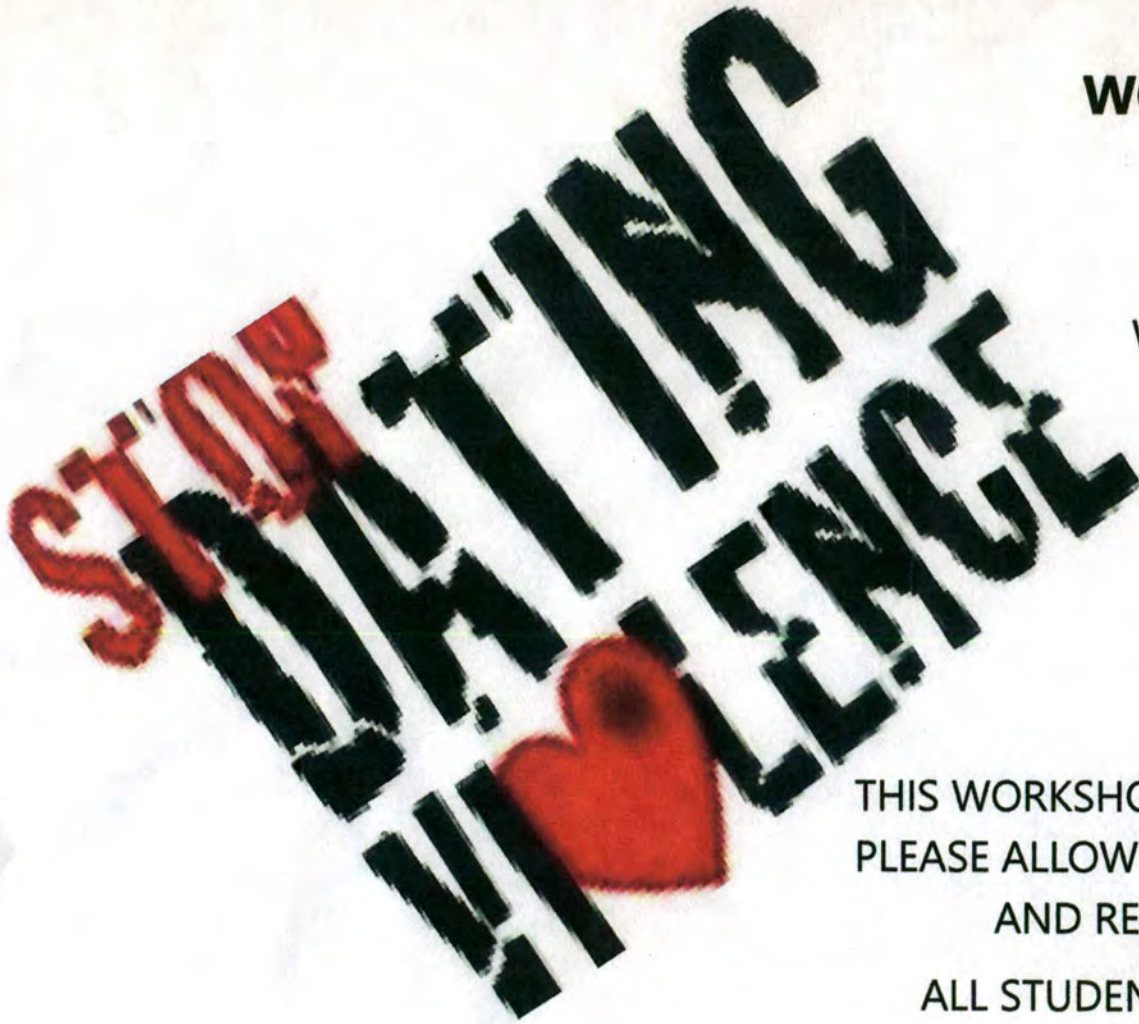
ALL STUDENT WORKERS WILL RETURN TO THEIR
WORKSTATIONS AFTER LUNCH.

WORKSHOP SPONSOR:

Supreme Court Civil Term
Gender Fairness Committee

WORKSHOP PRESENTER:

SAFE HORIZON



SPECIAL THANKS

Amicus Curiae Columbian Association
Association of Secretaries to Justices of the Supreme Court
Association of Supreme Court Reporters
Citywide Association of Law Clerks
Court Attorneys Association of the City of New York
District Council 37, -Court, County & Dept. Probation Employees
The Celts
The Cervantes Society
The New York State Court Clerks Association
The New York State Supreme Court Officer's Association
The Guardians Association of N.Y.S. Courts
The Tribune Society
Kings County Supreme Court IT Department
Kings County Supreme Court Interpreters Department
New York Cares - Jamel Evans
Harold Williams - Kings County District Attorney's Office

Hon. Matthew D'Emic, Administrative Judge, Criminal Matters
Hon. Lawrence Knipel, Administrative Judge, Civil Matters
Hon. Gloria Dabiri, Chair, Gender Fairness Committee, Civil Term
Hon. Patricia Henry, Chair, Gender Fairness Committee, Criminal Term
Daniel Alessandrino, Chief Clerk Criminal Matters
Charles Small, Esq., Chief Clerk Civil Matters
Gender Fairness Committee, Criminal Term
Gender Fairness Committee, Civil Term
Employees of the Kings County Supreme Court

BYCTWD

BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY



Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committees
320 Jay Street
360 Adams Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201
Thursday, April 17, 2014

BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Workshop Descriptions

Introduction to Volunteering

Why should I volunteer? Learn the in's and out's of service. Do you have what it takes to make the world a better place? Parental participation is welcome. Q & A Period.

Facilitator: Jamel Evans
New York Cares, Inc.

We Speak Your Language

A presentation on the importance of language in court proceedings. Participants will learn everyday words used in court proceedings, how they translate to other languages.

Facilitators: Migdalia Plasencia, Court Interpreter Unit

"You Decide" Mock Trial

When *You Decide* court is in session, the participants will be the jury. Participants will engage in a lively discussion as they try to determine whether or not the defendant is guilty or not guilty.

Facilitator: SCO Rhonda West

Who Wants to Be A Juror

Young participants learn what it takes to be a juror. Participants experience a simulated voir dire process.

Facilitator: Paul Nuccio, Esq.

Youth and the Court System

A presentation on juveniles and how they are processed through the courts. A discussion on how present behavior can affect future outcomes.

Facilitator: CO Al James, Youthful Offender Part, Criminal Court

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

Why Go To College?

Exploring college through the eyes of young people. Planting the seeds for success. College can be fun too. Let's explore through a group discussion.

Facilitators: June Farrow & Marsha Michael, Esq.

"Who Dunnit" Witness Scenario

Participants are introduced to line-ups and the identification process.

Facilitator: John Fiumara, Esq.

Fingerprinting

Participants learn about the fingerprinting process.

Facilitator: Karen Gillen, Court Clerk Training Officer

Guns Are No Fun/ Confiscated Weapons

Participants learn the dangers associated with guns. How to respond if you see a gun is explored. Participants also view the weapons that are taken from court users.

Facilitators: SCO Shawn Hobson & CO Susie Williams

Brains in the Family

Given in a game show format. Parents and child compete against each other for the title of *The Brain in the Family*.

Facilitator: Izetta Johnson, Senior Management Analyst

Unplug & Unwind Meditation

Learning to show up, pause and then respond rather than react is a critical life skill. During a guided meditation we will practice focus and mindfulness with time for sharing and questions.

Facilitator: Charmaine Henderson, Esq.

Arts & Crafts

Participants create a craft project.

Facilitators: Charmaine Richards, Dina James

UNEXPECTED WORDS FROM A GIFTED ANGEL

Author: Atiba Clarke

Monday, July 21, 2014

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.



Come to hear 20 year old Atiba discuss challenges he has faced in life, the journey to getting his book published and being an inspiration to others.

Copies of his book will be available

**Supreme Court of the State of New York
360 Adams Street
Courtroom 956
Brooklyn, NY 11201**

SPONSORED BY THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE, CIVIL TERM

Summer Youth Employment Program

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

Hon. Patricia E. Henry, Chair

And

*Kings County Family Court
Gender Fairness Committee*

Hon. Emily Olshansky, Chair

Kings County Supreme & Family Court Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: *Hon. Patricia E. Henry and Hon. Emily Olshansky*

Members: *Daniel Alessandrino, Chief Clerk; Kristen Barcellona, Judges Secretary; Nadia Bucknor, Assistant Court Analyst; Izetta Johnson, Senior Management Analyst; Joseph Madonia, Clinical Director, Brooklyn Treatment Court; Lisa Mangal, Analyst; Mackenzie Mendoza-Gilmore, Judges Secretary; Christopher Roeth, Sergeant; Mary Skinnon, Principle Court Clerk*

Counties Served: *Kings*

2014 Meetings

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *Access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. We were approached by representatives of this community to have a forum. After months of planning the forum was held and well attended.*

2014 Special Events

Other Special Events or Activities:

- *CLE Course - Lost in Translation: Best Practices in Communication with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Litigants*
- *Bring Your Child to Work Day - Co Sponsored*

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended?

- *Judges, Court Staff (Court Attorney's, Court Interpreters, Resource Coordinators) Family and Supreme Court Practitioners, Social Workers, Members of Deaf and Hard of Hearing organizations.*
- *Court staff and their children.*

Was there any press before or after? *No*

Concerns

Do you see unmet training needs? *Judge Henry was asked to Chair a Citywide DV- IDV Working Group. Various issues were identified.*

Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Effects of Trauma on Children*

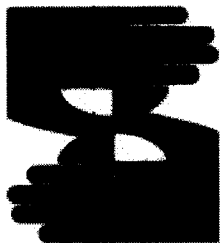
Would online viewing or video conferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *Yes*

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

Collaboration

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

Domestic Violence Organizations, Kings County Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee - Civil Term, The Appellate Division, Supreme Court, 2nd Judicial Department, The Office of Attorneys for Children, Court Legal Interpreting Coalition (CLIC)



**Court
Legal
Interpreting
Coalition**

PO Box 20799
New York, NY 10009-9991
T. 646-350-2662
F. 212.673.5167

January 10, 2014

Court Legal Interpreting Coalition (CLIC) aims to ensure effective communication for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing litigants in all legal proceedings in advocacy for the provision of qualified sign language interpreters as required by Federal, State and local law.

Prepared for the
New State Supreme Court
320 Jay Street, 2nd Street
Ceremonial Courtroom (2.83)
Brooklyn, New York 11201
Friday, January 31, 2014

The panel presentation titled “Lost in Translation: Best Practices in Communicating with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Litigants” will cover the following:

- A) How to determine whether an interpreter is qualified?
 - Trained in legal interpreting standards
 - Credentialed in interpreting practice
- B) The function of team Interpreting
 - Deaf-hearing Interpreting Team
 - The roles of Deaf and Hearing Interpreters
- C) Strategies for ensuring effective and accurate interpretations
 - Legal interpreting protocols
- D) The benefits of using Deaf Liaison
 - Communication deficits
 - Assess interpretative services provision

Each panelist will speak eight minutes. Cases and tools will incorporate on the power point for references. There will be sufficient time for questions and answers.

On behalf of CLIC, we are thankful to present to the judicial system and to form a court collaborative in strengthening and making aurally accessible for the Deaf community.

We look forward to meeting you on January 31, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicolyn Plummer, Chair



The Kings County Judicial Committee on
Women in the Courts
and
The Appellate Division,
Supreme Court, 2nd Judicial Department,
Honorable Randall Eng, Presiding Justice
and
The Office of Attorneys for Children

Presents:

Lost in Translation:
Best Practices in Communication with
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Litigants
January 31, 2014
1 p.m.

320 Jay Street, 2nd Floor Ceremonial Courtroom (2.95)

Court Legal Interpreting Coalition (CLIC) Presenters:

Sheryl Eisenberg Michalowski, Deaf Liaison/Advocate

Jana Owen, Sign Language Interpreter

Nicolyn Plummer, Domestic Violence Social Worker

Clara Smit, Esq., Attorney

Christopher Tester, American and British Sign Language Interpreter

CLE Credit: 1 Hour Professional Practice

The Appellate Division, Second Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited provider of continuing legal education in the state of New York. This course is appropriate for all attorneys.

Panelists' bio

Sheryl Eisenberg Michalowski is a deaf liaison/advocate for the legal services for the deaf and hard of hearing. She has been deaf since birth and is fluent in American Sign Language. Sheryl graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. from Washington University; earned her master of arts from New York University in Deaf Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. She works as a consultant to facilitate and provide resources and training on deafness, communication liaison. Her role includes working in disability right advocacy and outreach, and as such, she has a full understanding of the American Disabilities Act (ADA). She is committed to ensuring that every deaf or hard of hearing person has the quality of life and respect they deserve. Sheryl aims to bridge the gap for unparalleled services and understanding from beginning to end.

(Moderator)

Nicolyn Plummer is a domestic violence social worker (with a focus on Deaf Violence) of Barrier Free Living's Non-Residential Domestic Violence Program, serving people with disabilities who are victims of abuse. She produced "Deafablism" a domestic violence theatrical project, to raise funds for Deaf survivors of abuse and to help hearing world appreciate the talents of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals. She is also the founder and president of Sign Language Court Interpretation Task force (SLCITF) aka Court Legal Interpreting Coalition (CLIC), with a mission to foster effective communication through the provision of qualified sign language interpreters as required by federal, state and local law for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals who are victims of abuse in court proceedings.

Ms. Plummer received bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, in Criminal Justice from John Jay College; a master's degree in Social Work from New York University. She was the recipient of the Ronald E. McNair scholarship for research presentations. She received National Action Network, House of Justice Deaf Club, New York State Assembly Citation and City Council Citation for humanitarian contributions to the Deaf community. She wrote amicus brief of curiae, the Deaf Justice Coalition in support of plaintiffs' opposition to City Defendants' motion to vacate permanent injunction (to restrict the removal of alarm boxes), and this case was held at the United states District Court, Southern District of New York.

Ms. Plummer is an active member of the Deaf Justice Coalition with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. She conducts frequent workshop on issues related to Deafness, deaf culture, the complexities of violence, and accommodations.

Jana Owen is a sign language interpreter with over twenty years of experience in a wide array of interpreting settings; her specialty is in legal interpreting. She began her interpreting career in Portland, Oregon and later moved to Washington, D.C. to join Sign Language Associates, first as a Staff Interpreter and later as Vice President for Professional Staff. She serves in local and national leadership roles in the Registry of

Interpreters of the Deaf (RID). Ms. Owen moved to New York in 2009 and is now in private practice providing interpreting and consulting services.

Clara R. Smit, Esq. is an attorney in East Brunswick, New Jersey who specializes in serving the profoundly deaf. She has been involved in the deaf community and interpreting profession for most of her life. Her parents were deaf and communicated primarily through American Sign Language. Eighty percent of Ms. Smit's clientele is profoundly deaf and communicate through sign language. Ms. Smit is also fluent in sign language. Although Ms. Smit's practice is a general one to accommodate the deaf clients who come to her from all over New Jersey and often all over the country, she concentrates primarily on discrimination cases and making change through legal intervention. Her focus is communication access and the provision of sign language interpreters to ensure effective communication. Ms. Smit has been practicing for nineteen years in New Jersey and has won many victories on behalf of deaf individuals. Her cases have resulted in consent judgments and agreements which involve significant policy change in hospitals, doctor's offices, courts, prisons, employment settings and police departments among many other entities. Ms. Smit received a bachelor degree in English and Special Education; a JD degree from Seton Hall University School of Law.

Christopher Tester is an American and British Sign Language interpreter and disability inclusion consultant. A seasoned presenter, he specializes in workshop and seminar facilitation on topics (not limited to) disability rights and laws, Deaf and hard of hearing awareness, and American Sign Language and interpreting. He has interpreted for several off and on Broadway shows, National and International conferences and legal interpreting.

Chris received his Bachelor's degree at the College of the Holy Cross and his Professional Certificate from the Interpreter Education Program at LaGuardia Community College. He holds Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) from the Registry of the Interpreters for the Deaf. He resides in Manhattan.

Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Genine D. Edwards, Chair

Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: *Hon. Genine D. Edwards*

Members: *Renee Williams, Esq., Hon. Carolruth Feinman, Chinyelu Udoh, Esq., Anna Florek-Scarfutti, Hon. Carolyn Wade, Hon. Ingrid Joseph, Lena Ferrara, Assistant Deputy Chief Clerk, Hon. Pamela Fisher, Turquoise Haskin, Esq., Tyedanita Mclean, Esq.*

Counties Served: *Kings*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *September 2014*

Average Attendance: *5 – 8 members*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

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

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

The Committee invited a speaker for the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence, who gave an interactive presentation. District Leader Melba Brown rendered a Spoken Word piece. See attached flyer and program.

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended?

All of our programs are without cost and open to members of the public. The events are attended by judges, judicial and non judicial staff, attorneys, college and law school professors, students, and members of the community. Our events generally attract about 100 people.

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

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

- *Possible self-defense course for the Judges and Court staff*
- *Assembly Members and the Deputy Borough President presenting the stories of their journeys to success.*

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015? *January 2015 and others TBD*

Concerns

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

Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Age-specific seminars re: investments and financial matters and/or a work/life balance seminar.*

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

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

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association normally co-sponsors our events.

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *By continuing to support us during the annual meeting.*



**IN RECOGNITION OF
NATIONAL
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**



**THE BROOKLYN WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION
AND THE**



**KINGS COUNTY CIVIL COURT
GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE**



PRESENT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 101

PRESENTER



ABBY TULLER, M.A.
NORTH BROOKLYN COALITION
AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014

1:00PM - 2:30PM

**JURY ROOM - ROOM 305
141 LIVINGSTON STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11201**



DOOR PRIZES * LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Special Thanks

Hon. Melba Brown

District Leader of Brooklyn's 58th New York
State Assembly District

Abbie Tuller, LMHC

Executive Director, North Brooklyn Coalition
Against Family Violence

Brooklyn Women's Bar Association

Kings County Civil Court

Gender Fairness Committee Members

Hon. Genine D. Edwards (Chair)
Lena Ferrera, Ass't Deputy Chief Clerk
Hon. Carol Feinman
Hon. Pamela Fisher
Anna Florek, Esq.
Turquoise Haskin, Esq.
Hon. Ingrid Joseph
Tyedanita McLean, Esq.
Dejana Perrone, Esq.
Chinyelu Udoh, Esq.
Hon. Carolyn Wade
Renee Williams, Esq. (Secretary)

THE KINGS COUNTY CIVIL COURT

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

&

THE BROOKLYN WOMEN'S BAR

ASSOCIATION

Present

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 101

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Kings County Civil Court

Jury Room - Room 305

141 Livingston Street* Brooklyn, NY

Abbie Tuller is the Executive Director of the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence (The Coalition). There, she leads a team of professionals who provide counseling, advocacy and support services to survivors of domestic violence within the North Brooklyn communities of Williamsburg, Bushwick and Greenpoint. Since her appointment in 2011, Abbie has developed new support group programs and expanded services with the support of additional funding.

Prior to her position at the Coalition, Abbie was the Senior Evaluation Associate at Urban Resource Institute (URI), the second largest domestic violence shelter provider in NYC. While working at URI, Abbie helped to lead the Evaluation Unit and provided administrative support to shelter directors and executive staff. Abbie continues to provide research and evaluation consultation to URI.

Abbie Tuller has a Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology from Saint Louis University and a Master of Arts Degree in Forensic Mental Health Counseling from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Abbie is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice with an emphasis on Policy, Oversight and Administration at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Her research interests include analysis of policies impacting victims' services, particularly violence against women.

PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS

Hon. Genine D. Edwards

Chair, Kings County Civil Court Gender
Fairness Committee
Board Member, Brooklyn Women's Bar
Association

SPOKEN WORD

Hon. Melba Brown

District Leader of Brooklyn's 58th New York
State Assembly District

REMARKS

Abbie Tuller, LMHC

Executive Director, North Brooklyn Coalition
Against Family Violence

Q & A

DOOR PRIZES

CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Pamela Fisher

Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness
Committee
Member, Brooklyn Women's Bar Association

New York County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Tanya Kennedy, Chair

New York County Civil Court Gender and Fairness Committee

Chairs: *Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy*

Members: *Nyiel Barret; Yacine Barry-Wun, Esq.; Michael Boyle; Esteban Bujanda; Denise Colon-Greenaway; Lt. Diane Cuminale; Hon. James D'Auguste; Lt. William Evans; Christel Garland, Esq.; Hon. Cheryl Gonzales; Hon. David Kaplan; Julie Kennedy; Robin Lindner; James Lopez; Michael Marks, Esq.; Emily Morales-Minerva, Esq.; Phyllis Munford; Angela Redman, Esq.; Edwin Rosa; Malaika Scott-McLaughlin, Esq.; Serena Springle; John Smith; Joann Terrelonge*

Counties Served: *New York*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *Committee business is conducted through emails*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

Co-sponsored "Overview of Domestic Violence issues in Civil Court" program with New York Women's Bar Association

Other Special Events or Activities:

Held "Personal Boot Camp Series" (3-part series) and "Breast Cancer Awareness" seminar. All programs are lunchtime seminars. Evaluations are distributed at the close of each seminar to obtain employee feedback.

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended?

Held "Personal Boot Camp Series" (3-part series) and "Breast Cancer Awareness" seminar. All programs are lunchtime seminars. Evaluations are distributed at the close of each seminar to obtain employee feedback.

Was there any press before or after? *No*

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and we will co-sponsor "Your Healthy Heart" Lunchtime Series program in celebration of Go Red for Women Month with New York Women's Bar Association, the NYS Courts Access to Justice Program, Community Outreach Program and the Gender and Fairness Committees of the New York County Criminal and Family Courts on February 24, 2015. We are also exploring the possibility of hosting a "Take Your Children to Work Day" program.

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015?

Committee work is conducted through emails.

Concerns

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

Several issues which our committee has hosted events about remain vital topics that need to be addressed. These topics include gender equality, trafficking, dating violence, and domestic violence.

Collaboration

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

Bar Associations and the New York Women's Bar Association

NY COUNTY CIVIL COURT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

PRESENTS

*“HOW TO SEPARATE MYTHS AND FACTS
ASSOCIATED WITH BREAST CANCER”*

This seminar will explore the causes and risk factors associated with breast cancer, identify the early warning signs, and look at some of the available diagnostic tests and treatments. Supporting/coping tools, preventative suggestions, and resources will be presented.

OCTOBER 30 , 2014

*In the
8th Floor Boardroom
at 1PM*

*Please RSVP to
Nbarret@nycourts.gov*

LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES

Your Healthy Heart



Paying attention to your heart health is one of the best things you can do to improve your overall quality of life and longevity.

This FREE seminar will cover what you need to know about heart health as well as conditions, treatments and procedures related to heart disease.

February 24, 2015

1:15pm-2:15pm

New York County Civil Court

111 Centre Street

Room 362

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP: nbarret@nycourts.gov

***February is Heart Disease Awareness and Go Red for Women Month!**

Attendees are encouraged to wear red to show their support for staying heart healthy.

Sponsored by: The New York Women's Bar Association, the Gender and Fairness Committees of the New York County Civil, Criminal and Family Courts, and the NYS Courts Access to Justice Program's Community Outreach Program



NY COUNTY CIVIL COURT

GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE PRESENTS

“PERSONAL FINANCE BOOTCAMP”

A 3 part series

June 4 - Cash Flow Session

In room 1246 at 1 PM

June 12 - ID Theft, Credit and Debit

8th Floor Boardroom at 1 PM

June 19 - Asset, Investment, Estates and

Retirement Planning

In room 1246 at 1 PM

Please RSVP to Nyiela Barret at

Nbarret@nycourts.gov ASAP

*Queens County Criminal Court Matters Gender Fairness Committee
(Supreme Court, Criminal Term, and Criminal Court)*

Hon. Marcia Hirsch, Co-Chair

Hon. Pauline Mullings, Co-Chair

Queens Criminal Court Matters Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: *Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch, Judge of the Court of Claims/Acting Supreme Court Justice and Hon. Pauling Mullings, Acting Supreme Court Justice - representing Queens Criminal Court*

Members: *Attached*

Counties Served: *Queens*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *Prior to Events*

Average Attendance: *6*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

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

2014 Special Events

Other Special Events or Activities:

- *On November 25, 2014, in association with The Gender Fairness Committee of the Supreme Court Civil Term Queens County, the Queens County Women's Bar Association and the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association, we screened a film in Kew Gardens profiling South African women Judges entitled, "Courting Justice". It was a very revealing look at the lives of these women, in and out of the courtroom.*
- *On February 25, 2014, in association with The Gender Fairness Committee of the Supreme Court Civil Term Queens County and the Queens Women's Bar Association, we presented our most successful program to date, "Women and Money: Taking Charge of your Financial Future." More than 68 people attended this discussion of finances, pension rules, health benefits and investment strategies.*

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended?

Judicial and non-judicial employees attended, including secretaries, court officers and clerks, as well as members of the Queens District Attorney's Office, Queens County Women's Bar

Association, and the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association. Attendance ranged between 25 and 70 people.

Was there any press before or after? *No*

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015? *Long Term Health Insurance for You and Your Family*

Concerns

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2015? *Lack of promotional opportunities available for women in the courts, and opportunities in general. The secretaries are concerned about their future in the court system. Women and Money is still a topic worth exploring, with many of our younger members concerned about the high cost of college and our older members concerned about caring for elderly family members and having enough savings to retire.*

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Women participants in our various treatment courts struggle to find child care, good jobs and adequate housing. Women with mental illness face additional barriers due to the stigma of having this disease.*

Do you see unmet training needs? *New computer systems are installed with no provision for training of employees beyond a training disc. The people who install them are not quite sure how it all works, so everyone is using the system at the bare minimum potential.*

Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Managing stress in the work place, computer system skills, communication skills.*

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

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

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations and Madison Planning Group, Inc.

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *Sharing other ideas for speakers and topics that have been successful.*

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2014-2015

Name of the Committee:

Queens Criminal Court Matters Gender Fairness Committee

Name and Title of Chair:

Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch,
Judge of the Court of Claims/Acting Supreme Court Justice
Hon. Pauline Mullings
Acting Supreme Court Justice - representing Queens Criminal Court

Contact Person Regarding the Survey: Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch

Members (names and titles):

Felice Barry, Esq.
Attorney, Queens Law Associates

Stephanie A. Hunter
Lieutenant, Queens Criminal Court

Irene Boyce
Court Clerk, Queens Supreme Court,
Criminal Term

Frederica Jeffries, Esq.
Supervising Assistant District Attorney,
Queens County District Attorney

Nicole Burrell
Sergeant, Queens Criminal Court

Maritza Karagiorgos
Senior Court Analyst, Queens Treatment Court

Frank Consigli, Esq.
Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court,
Criminal Term

Catherine Kwan, Esq.
Assistant District Attorney, Queens County
District Attorney

Ira Friedberg
Senior Court Clerk, Queens Criminal Court

Peter Manzo
Resource Coordinator, Queens Drug Court

Helen Gambichler
Senior Court Clerk, Queens Supreme Court,
Criminal Term

Jennifer Norman, Esq.
Attorney, Queens Law Associates

Victor Gomez
Associate Court Clerk, Queens Criminal Court

Suzanne O'Hare, Esq.
Assistant District Attorney, Queens County
District Attorney

Donna Myrill, Esq.
Assistant District Attorney, Queens County
District Attorney

Parmanand Pearaylall
Court Office Assistant, Queens Criminal Court

Delores Haynes
Secretary to Judge, Queens Supreme Court,
Criminal Term

Rosemary Serno
Secretary to Judge, Queens County Supreme
Court, Criminal Term

Hon. Marcia Hirsch
Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Kathleen Ward, Esq.
Principal Court Attorney, Queens Supreme
Court, Criminal Term

*The Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts
of Queens Supreme Court—Civil Term*

Hon. Marguerite A. Grays, Chair

The Judicial Committee on the Women in the Courts of the Supreme Court -- Civil Term

Chair: *Hon. Marguerite Grays*

Counties Served: *Queens*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *February 25, 2014 and November 25, 2014*

Average Attendance: *30*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

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

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *Financial issues were of great interest at our February, 2014 program. We had a very lively question and answer session regarding various retirement options and mechanisms for saving for college.*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

We had a screening of the film Courting Justice. This film featured seven South African women judges, who discussed their challenges in working in a previously all-male institution and their sacrifices they made to effect the Constitution's human rights changes.

Activities for Women's History Month:

Our program entitled, Women and Money: Taking Charge of Your Financial Future

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended?

Approximately 20 to 40 people attended the events

Was there any press before or after? *No*

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Women's History Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month programs

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015?

We are still in the process of developing a schedule.

Educational Programs and Projects

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

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real time on your desktop computer? *No*

Collaboration

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

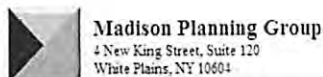
Bar Associations and we regularly co-chair events with the Gender Fairness Committee of the Supreme Court-Criminal Term and the Queens Criminal Court.

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee? *It would be helpful if the Committee could establish a speakers' bureau or distribute a list of speakers together with their topic of expertise and general availability to the committee chairs. This would facilitate the possibility of holding additional programs throughout the calendar year.*

*The Queens County Gender Fairness Committee
of the Supreme and Criminal Court
and
The Queens County Women's Bar Association
Present*

**WOMEN AND MONEY :
TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE**

Discussion led by **Gary Schwartz** of the **Madison Planning Group, Inc.**



**YOU CAN'T PREDICT THE FUTURE...
BUT YOU CAN PREPARE NOW FOR WHATEVER IT BRINGS.**

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2014

TIME: 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: 8TH Floor Boardroom

Kew Gardens Courthouse

125-01 Queens Blvd.

Kew Gardens, NY 11415

RSVP: By February 20, 2014

Rosemary Serno c/o Judge Hirsch at (718) 298-1435 rserno@courts.state.ny.us

Joann Lopresto c/o Judge Grays (718) 298-1212 jloprest@courts.state.ny.us

QCWBA@Yahoo.com

Pizza will be provided for lunch

*The Gender Fairness Committees for the
Supreme & Criminal Courts
in conjunction with
Queens County Women's Bar Association
and the
Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association*

Invite you to a documentary screening of



Courting Justice

*Created by Ruth B. Cowan
& Produced by Luna Films*

“Courting Justice” features seven South African women judges, all of whom were New Democracy appointments. They serve on the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Appeal and the provincial High Courts. They speak to us while at work in their court rooms and chambers, at home and in the communities in which they were raised. *Courting Justice* is their story. It is a very personal story, revealing the challenges they confront working in a previously all-male institution [in 2008, only 18% of a total of 200 judges countrywide were women] and the sacrifices they make to effect the Constitution’s human rights promises.

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

☉ 1:00 - 2:15p.m ☉

Courtroom 190 (Ceremonial Courtroom, 1st Floor)

Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

125-01 Kew Gardens, Jamaica, NY 11435

RSVP to the Hon. Marguerite A. Grays (718)298-1212

or via e-mail to jlopresto@nycourts.gov by November 21, 2014

All are Welcome!

Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto, Chair

Hon. Karen A. Wolff, Chair

Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: *Hon. Barbara Irolla Panepinto and Hon. Karen Wolff*

Members: *Claire Cody Miller, Esq.; Susan Quirk, Esq. (Special Referee, Richmond County Supreme Court); Rian Silverman, Esq. (Court Attorney to Hon. Karen Wolff), Karen Soren, Esq.;*

Counties Served: *Richmond*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *April 10*

Average Attendance: *5*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *No*

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *Conference on cyberbullying at New Dorp HS*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Month:

"Sexting & Cyber Bullying – Oh No You Didn't!," Conference on cyberbullying at New Dorp HS

Other Special Events or Activities:

Co-sponsored breast health awareness event for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended?

Approximately 60 teens

Was there any press before or after? *No*

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

Women's History Month:

We are sponsoring an amazing production by the brilliant & talented theatre group: Girl Be Heard. Per the Artistic Director Ashley Marinaccio: "Girl Be Heard uses theater as our vehicle to

empower young women to become brave, confident, socially conscious leaders and explore their own challenging circumstances." The Committee is working with Girl Be Heard to offer a program about sexual assault on college campuses that would include a sketch and a panel discussion at New Dorp High School.

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015? *April 16*

Concerns

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

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

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?
Bar Associations including the Staten Island Women's Bar Association



THE STATEN ISLAND WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

&

STATEN ISLAND GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

(a chapter of the NYS Office of Court Administration's Gender Fairness Program)

in association with the

**STATEN ISLAND YOUTH JUSTICE CENTER and
NEW DORP HIGH SCHOOL LAW & JUSTICE PROGRAM**

INVITE YOU TO A PANEL DISCUSSION ON

SEXTING & CYBER BULLYING – OH NO YOU DIDN'T!

Thursday, April 10, 2014

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

New Dorp High School - 465 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, New York, 10306

The event is free; pizza will be served

Panel Members

Edwina Frances Martin, SIWBA Advisory Council Member, Moderator



Hon. Barbara Irolla Panepinto, Acting Justice, Supreme Court, Richmond County

Hon. Karen B. Wolff, Judge, Family Court of the City of New York, Richmond County



Ann Thompson, Assistant District Attorney
(Office of the Richmond County District Attorney, Special Victims Bureau)



Special Agent Danielle M. Messineo
(Long Island Child Exploitation Task Force)



Christine Roos, Coordinator
(Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention,
Division of Adolescent Medicine, SIUH)

Staten Island Women's Bar Association

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

P.O. Box 140813

Staten Island, NY 10314

Phone: 718-351-3000 ◆ www.SIWBA.org ◆ drg.esq@gmail.com

Dawn Reid-Green, President



And The
JUDGES & LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT

And The
**NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts/Gender
Fairness Committee**

And The
Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee

cordially invite you to their

***ANNUAL
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
BREAKFAST***

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

9:15 A.M.

***Supreme Court House
18 Richmond Terrace***

*****Refreshments will be served**
Come Join Us and Show Your Support!!!***

Gender Fairness Committee
Bronx County Family Court

Hon. Carol Sherman, Chair

Bronx Family Court Gender Fairness Committee

Chair: *Hon. Carol Sherman*

Members: *Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney; Denise Dizzene, CWCIP Liaison; Rhonda Young, Case Coordinator; Mara Felder, Bronx Defenders; Deborah Gould, Children's Law Center; Kim Kavern, Safe Horizons; Lauren Lerner, Court Attorney Referee; Sue Levy, Court Attorney Referee; MaryAnn Mendenhall, Bronx Defenders; Jacqueline Saed, ACS Legal Services; Christina Paska, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Dana Stricker, 18b Panel; Mike Williams, Clerk of Court; Yosef Siegel, Associate Court Clerk; Lauren Teichner, Bronx Defenders; Rebecca Visgaitis, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Rhonda Albright, Children's Law Center; Jamie Bunyan, Children's Law Center; Catherine Friedman, Family court ADR Coordinator; Dr. Christopher Mongeau, Bronx Family court Mental Health Services; Anita Parker, St Luke AME Church; Lindsay Copeland, Court Attorney*

Counties Served: *Bronx*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *5/12/14, 6/23/14, 9/29/14, 12/11/14*

Average Attendance: *15 - 20*

Do you use Video Conferencing? *No*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *No*

Areas of success during 2014 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts: *We held 4 programs during Domestic Violence Awareness Month that were very well attended. Finally, DCAS installed changing tables in some of the public bathrooms in the courthouse. The supervised visitation program at St Luke AME Church is going very well, and many families have been referred.*

2014 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

We had 4 programs-- one each week during that month. They were very well attended. Please see the attached flyers.

Other Special Events or Activities:

We sponsored the SCAN Mobile for Breast Cancer Awareness and conducted a very successful clothing drive for Dress for Success.

Special Event Marketing

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended?

About 50-80 people attended the CLE programs during DV Awareness Month

Was there any press before or after? *No*

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

We are planning 2 programs related to the issues of young/teen mothers and young/teen fathers and teen mothers and fathers who are themselves in foster care with or without their babies.

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2015?

We have meetings scheduled for 3/18/15 and 6/10/15. We will schedule for the rest of the year at the March meeting.

Concerns

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

Supervised visitation and breastfeeding space. We do not have breastfeeding space, and we need more changing tables. We also need more supervised visitation programs.

Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *Young teen mothers and fathers as mentioned above.*

Would online viewing or video conferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *No*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real time on your desktop computer? *No*

Collaboration

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

Please see the attached minutes of our meetings and flyers for our programs.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH TRAINING SERIES

Upcoming dates:

The Intersection of Orders of
Protection and Immigration
10/14 1-2 pm

Litigating Trauma: How Trauma
Impacts Courtroom Experience
10/20 1-2 pm

Cultural Competency
10/29 1:30-4:30 pm

All trainings to be held at:

Bronx Family Court
900 Sheridan Ave.
Bronx, NY

9th Floor Library

OCTOBER 7, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm THE EFFECTS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ON BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

OPENING REMARKS:

HON. LLINET ROSADO

SPEAKER:

RACHEL COPELAND

Director of Forensic and Clinical Services
Manhattan Child Advocacy Center, Safe Horizon

This training will look at the impact of domestic violence on babies and young children, with a focus on how intimate partner violence can impact attachment, which in turn can impact trauma and the caregiver's ability to support the child through trauma. The training will also cover how domestic violence can impact children's ability to create a healthy and secure attachment as well as the potential for the child to experience pre-verbal trauma, which are concerning and potentially detrimental for one's healthy childhood development.

This program has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 1 CREDIT HOUR which can be applied toward the Area of Professional Practice requirement. This complimentary training is appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys. The Appellate Division, First Department, is an accredited Continuing Legal Education Provider.

To register, go to: <http://bit.do/DV-and-Infants>

CO-SPONSORED BY:

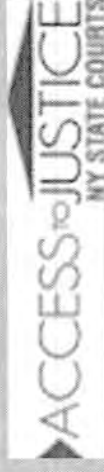
Appellate Division, First Dept.

Bronx Family Court

Gender Fairness Committee



moving victims of violence from crisis to confidence



Child Welfare



Court Improvement Project

For more information, contact: Kimberlina Kavern, 718-509-3632 or kkavern@safehorizon.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH TRAINING SERIES

Upcoming dates:

Litigating Trauma: How Trauma
Impacts Courtroom Experience
10/20 1-2 pm

Cultural Competency
10/29 1:30-4:30 pm

OCTOBER 14, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm THE INTERSECTION OF ORDERS OF PROTECTION AND IMMIGRATION

PRESENTERS:

TERRY LAWSON

Director of the Family and Immigration Unit of Legal
Services NYC – Bronx

SUSANNA SAUL

Supervising Attorney, Her Justice

This training will explore the possible immigration consequences of
orders of protection in Family Court, and will address questions relating
to requests for U nonimmigrant status certifications from Family Court
judges.

*This program has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the NYS
Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 1 CREDIT HOUR which can be
applied toward the Area of Professional Practice requirement. This complimentary
training is appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys. The Appellate
Division, First Department, is an accredited Continuing Legal Education Provider.*

To register, go to: <http://bit.do/Orders-of-Protection-and-Immigration>

All trainings to be held at:

Bronx Family Court
900 Sheridan Ave.
Bronx, NY

9th Floor Library

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Appellate Division, First Dept.

Bronx Family Court

Gender Fairness Committee



moving victims of violence from crisis to confidence



Child Welfare



Court Improvement Project

For more information, contact: Kimberlina Kavern, 718-509-3632 or kkavern@safehorizon.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH TRAINING SERIES

Upcoming date:

Cultural Competency
10/29 1:30-4:30 pm

OCTOBER 20, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm LITIGATING TRAUMA: HOW TRAUMA IMPACTS COURTROOM EXPERIENCE

OPENING REMARKS:

HON. SARAH P. COOPER

SPEAKERS:

- **ERI KIM**, Clinical Director Community Programs, Safe Horizon
- **MICHELE PAOLELLA**, Program Director, Day One
- **SARAH JOHNSTON**, Social Worker, Legal Aid
- **GLENDALEE OLIVERA**, Elder Abuse Specialist at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale
- **MARYANN PONTON**, Deputy Director in the Division of Child Protection at the Bronx Borough Office

This training will look at the ways trauma impacts behavior, memory, and cognition, and how this in turn impacts the court experience for both trauma survivors and services providers and court personnel.

This program has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 1 CREDIT HOUR which can be applied toward the Area of Professional Practice requirement. This complimentary training is appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys. The Appellate Division, First Department, is an accredited Continuing Legal Education Provider.

To register, go to: <http://bit.do/Litigating-Trauma>

All trainings to be held at:

Bronx Family Court
900 Sheridan Ave.
Bronx, NY
9th Floor Library

CO-SPONSORED BY:

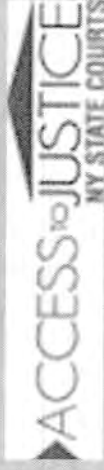
Appellate Division, First Dept.

Bronx Family Court

Gender Fairness Committee



moving victims of violence from crisis to confidence



Child Welfare



Court Improvement Project

For more information, contact: Kimberlina Kavern, 718-509-3632 or kkavern@safehorizon.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH TRAINING SERIES

Upcoming dates:

The Effects of Intimate Partner
Violence on Babies and Young
Children

10/7 1-2 pm

The Intersection of Orders of
Protection and Immigration

10/14 1-2 pm

Litigating Trauma: How Trauma
Impacts Courtroom Experience

10/20 1-2 pm

Cultural Competency

10/29 1:30-4:30 pm

All trainings to be held at:

Bronx Family Court

900 Sheridan Ave.

Bronx, NY

9th Floor Library

OCTOBER 1, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm VICARIOUS TRAUMA

PRESENTERS:

ELIZABETH SPECK

Senior Director Program Training, Safe Horizon

VICKI E. LIGHT

Attorney, Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Practice

This training will look at Vicarious Trauma (sometimes called Secondary Trauma or Compassion Fatigue) and its effects on service providers, specifically attorneys and court personnel. The training will define vicarious trauma, identify its causes and effects, and describe tools and techniques for managing it.

This program has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the NYS Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 1 CREDIT HOUR which can be applied toward the Area of Professional Practice Requirement. This complimentary training is appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys. The Appellate Division, First Department, is an accredited Continuing Legal Education Provider.

To register, go to:

<http://bit.do/Vicarious-Trauma>

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Appellate Division, First Dept.

Bronx Family Court

Gender Fairness Committee



safehorizon

moving victims of violence from crisis to confidence

ACCESS to JUSTICE
NY STATE COURTS



Child Welfare

UNITED
COURT SYSTEM

Court Improvement Project

For more information, contact: Kimberlina Kavern, 718-509-3632 or kkavern@safehorizon.org

Gender Fairness Committee - Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol Sherman
December 11, 2014
1:15 PM
Bronx County Family Court
9th Floor Conference Room

A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes from September 29, 2014 meeting
2. Report from Subcommittee on Supervised Visitation at St. Luke
3. Proposed Continuing Education Programs
4. Report on ScanVan
5. Report on DV Programs
5. New Projects
 - a) Dress for Success - Winter 2015
6. Next Meetings - March 18, 2015
- June 10, 2015
7. Future Projects and Programs

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

December 11, 2014

In Attendance

Hon. Carol Sherman, J.F.C.
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Rhonda Albright, Childrens' Law Center
Jamie Bunyan, Childrens' Law Center
Lindsay Copeland, Court Attorney
Denise Dizzine, CWCIP Liaison
Catherine Friedman, ADR Coordinator
Mara Fleder, The Bronx Defenders
Esther Halcomb, Case Coordinator
Sherry Laird, Childrens' Law Center
Lauren Lerner, Referee
Sue Levy, Referee
Kim Kavern, Safe Horizons
Dr. Christopher Mongeau, Bronx MHS
Anita Parker, St. Lukes
Gilbert Rodriguez, Assistant Deputy Clerk of Court
Jacqueline Saed, Administration for Childrens' Services
Yosef Seigel, Associate Court Clerk
Natasha Stewart, St. Lukes
Lauren Teichner, The Bronx Defenders
Rebecca Visgaitis, Corporation Counsel
Rhonda T. Young, Case Coordinator

Minutes from the meeting of September 29, 2014 were approved by the Committee.

- Supervised Visitation in CVO Cases - Supervised Exchange Program
Anita Parker of St. Lukes reported the program accepted 34 referrals from the Bronx, in which 16 cases are still open. Visits are weekly, bi-weekly or twice a month. The program has no limit as to how many visits it will do. The majority of the clients are low-income. Also, Intake is closed at this time.

New York Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children is still doing supervised visits. However, the downtown Manhattan location is not convenient for Bronx families.

- Proposed Continuing Education Programs

The Sub-Committee on Young Parents in Foster Care, consisting of Mara Fleder (Chair), Barbara Stock and Jacqueline Saed, met three times. This CLE will focus on early engagement of young parents who have grown up in foster care, and may consist of 2 separate events: one focused on young mothers and one focused on young fathers. The sub-committee visited Inwood House, and is reaching out to Vera Institute and the Door's Young Parent Program regarding possible speakers. Judge Sherman would like the Committee to contact the Department of Education and inquire as to what services are available for pregnant parents, especially daycare.

The next sub-committee meeting will be held in January 2015.

- Special Projects: Project Renewal - Scan Van Mammography Van

Free mammogram services were provided by the Project Renewal Mobile Mammography Scan Van Program on October 28, 2014. The van was located in front of 900 Sheridan Avenue from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eighteen women were screened and four were referred for follow-up.

- Continuing Education Programs

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month

DV Awareness CLE's were held on October 1, October 7, October 14, October 20 and October 29, 2014.

Kimberly Kavern reported that each program went very well and about 80 participants were at each event. The programs were held in the Bronx Family Court Library which was adorned with art work donated by Hostos Community College Students, which depicted domestic violence. Safe Horizons decorated the Bronx Family Court Help Center in purple and distributed purple ribbons.

- Courthouse Renovations

Construction on the 6th Floor will begin around March/April 2015. This will cause relocation of some Referees and some of the Agencies on the 6th Floor. The construction will result in new Referee Courtrooms.

The Family Court entrance is expected to re-open in Spring 2015. This will eliminate the issue of having parents carry strollers up the stairs of the Criminal Court entrance.

The Children's Center and Safe Horizon will be located in the new space on the 1st Floor. Ms. Kavern expects the Children's Center will now be able to accommodate approximately 26 children. Parents may check their children in as soon as they come into the Courthouse. However, parents can not pre-register their child and then bring the child later.

Changing tables are now installed in the women's restrooms on the first, seventh and eighth floors. However, Judge Sherman would like more changing tables installed, including the men's restrooms.

- New Programs

- Gabi Program (Einstein College of Medicine)

- Judge Sherman reported on a program administered by Dr. Anne Murphy at Einstein Medical College for children ages of 0-3 who are living with parents, not in foster care. The program offers hands-on, intensive one-on-one, parent/child interactive dyadic therapy and parent groups and children groups. The program will take cases where young children have siblings and is not limited to families with Article 10 cases. ACS makes referrals to this program and parents can self-refer. It is not a preventive services.

The only exclusion is if parent is not English speaking. The program is in the process of hiring a Spanish speaking therapist.

- New York Society for Ethical Culture / Osborne Society (Tele-Visits)

- Rhonda Albright reported the New York Society for Ethical Culture provides video-visits for children with parents incarcerated at Rikers Island.

The Osborne Society provides a program for video-visits for children with mothers incarcerated at Albion Correctional Facility in upstate New York and will fly children to visit parents in upstate New York correctional facilities twice per year. Judge Sherman inquired as to whether or not this is a good topic for a CLE involving Article 10 and CVO cases. Rhonda Albright or Kimberly Kavern will reach out to the Director of the Osborne Association about attending the next Gender Fairness Committee meeting to provide more information and to possibly schedule a C.L.E.

- Montefiore Hospital

- Judge Sherman met with Dr. Wexler at Montefiore Drug Treatment Program. The program is an ACS contract preventive service. If a parent is in the program, it will also provide services from Montefiore to children and families.

- New Projects

Esther Halcomb will arrange for the Committee to sponsor a clothing drive to benefit Dress for Success, an organization that provides professional business attire free-of-charge to economically disadvantaged women in Spring 2015.

The next meeting of the Gender Fairness Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2014 at 1:15 PM, 9th Floor Conference Room.

Gender Fairness Committee - Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol Sherman
May 12, 2014
1:15 PM
Bronx County Family Court
9th Floor Conference Room

A G E N D A

1. Report from Subcommittees
2. Proposed Continuing Education Programs
3. New Projects
4. Future Meeting Dates

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

May 12, 2014

In Attendance

Hon. Carol R. Sherman, J.F.C.
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Denise Dizzine, CWCIP Liaison
Mara Fleder, The Bronx Defenders
Deborah Gould, The Children's Law Center
Kim Kavern, Safe Horizons
Lauren Lerner, Referee
Sue Levy, Referee
Mary Anne Mendenhall, The Bronx Defenders
Christine Paska, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Jacqueline Saed, ACS Bronx County Family Court Legal Services
Yosef Seigel, Associate Court Clerk
Dana Stricker, 18B Panel/Bronx County Family Court Bar Association
Mike Williams, Clerk of the Court

Minutes from the meeting of November 1, 2013 were approved by the Committee. Judge Sherman received reports from the subcommittees and highlighted key accomplishments.

- Supervised Visitation in CVO Cases - Supervised Exchange Program
The Supervised Exchange Program sponsored by St. Luke's AME Church is up and running and the protocol for referral of cases has been presented to judges, stakeholders, and referees.
- Special Projects: Mammography Van and Dress for Success
In the Fall 2013, GFC Committee Liaison Rhonda Young arranged for free mammogram services at the courthouse provided by the Mobile Mammography Scan Van Program. Also the Committee sponsored a clothing drive to benefit Dress for Success, an organization that provides professional business attire free-of-charge to economically disadvantaged women. These events received active and enthusiastic support from the family court community.
- Continuing Education Programs
- *"Making the Difference: Working with Fathers in Family Court"*
In February 2014, Mara Fleder, Bronx Defenders, and Denise Dizzine, in coordination with the Bronx County Child Protective Task Force and the GFC and DMR Committees, arranged an important and informative continuing legal education program that included service providers from the Bronx community who provide resources and assistance to

fathers. A follow-up presentation of the program was provided to CP Judges and Court Attorneys citywide.

- “*Creating Change for Children: Addressing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*”
This CLE will feature Miriam Goodman and Katie Crank of the Center for Court Innovation as speakers and will be held on July 24, 2014 from 1:05 PM to 2 PM, in the 9th Floor Library.

- New Topics for Continuing Education Programs

The Committee discussed interests and potential topics for CLEs in Fall 2014 as follows:

- Early engagement of young parents who have grown up in foster care to address the impact that foster care has on parenting abilities and the types of reunification and support services available to assist these young parents.

- Impact of new domestic violence legislation as to economic issues such as identity theft and other forms of economic abuse.

- New legislation on surrogacy and its impact on the establishment of legal parenthood under Article 5 of the Family Court Act.

- Pending Issues:

- Installation of Infant Changing Tables

Despite repeated requests by the Clerk’s Office, DCAS has failed to include costs for the purchase of infant changing tables and installation of the equipment in its budget for the Bronx County Family Court. Installation can only be done by DCAS or one of its contractors. Mike Williams said he would re-visit the issue with DCAS and see if an allocation can be made for the equipment and installation in this year’s DCAS budget.

- Status of ACS Visitation Policy

Judge Sherman noted that full implementation of the visitation policy issued by ACS Commissioner Richter, *Determining the Appropriate Level of Supervision Needed During Visits for Families with Children in Foster Care* (eff. July 17, 2012) has been uneven. This policy was an important step forward and Judge Sherman asked Jacqueline Saed to obtain an update for the next meeting on the status of the 2012 ACS policy and the plans ACS has developed to ensure compliance by foster care agencies.

The next meeting of the Gender Fairness Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2014 at 1:15 PM, 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court.

Gender Fairness Committee - Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol Sherman
June 23, 2014
1:15 PM
Bronx County Family Court
9th Floor Conference Room

A G E N D A

1. Report from Subcommittees
2. Proposed Continuing Education Programs
3. DV Awareness Month Possible CLE Topics (Survey provided by Ms. Kavern)
4. New Projects
 - a) Breast Cancer Screening Scan Van - October 2014
 - b) Dress for Success - Fall 2014
5. Future Meeting Dates

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

June 23, 2014

In Attendance

Hon. Carol R. Sherman, J.F.C.
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Mara Fleder, The Bronx Defenders
Esther Halcomb, Case Coordinator
Kim Kavern, Safe Horizons
Sherry Laird, The Children's Law Center
Lauren Lerner, Referee
Sue Levy, Referee
Mary Anne Mendenhall, The Bronx Defenders
Christine Paska, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Jacqueline Saed, ACS Bronx County Family Court Legal Services
Yosef Seigel, Associate Court Clerk
Barbara Stock, Legal Aid Society
Rhonda T. Young, Case Coordinator

Minutes from the meeting of May 12, 2014 were approved by the Committee. Judge Sherman received reports from the subcommittees and highlighted key accomplishments.

- Supervised Visitation in CVO Cases - Supervised Exchange Program
The Supervised Visitation Program sponsored by St. Luke's AME Church is up and running. Judge Sherman reported the spaces are filling up.
- Special Projects: Mammography Van and Dress for Success
Rhonda Young will arrange for free mammogram services at the courthouse provided by the Mobile Mammography Scan Van Program in October 2014.

Esther Halcomb will arrange for the Committee to sponsor a clothing drive to benefit Dress for Success, an organization that provides professional business attire free-of-charge to economically disadvantaged women in December 2014.

- Proposed Continuing Education Programs
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
DV Awareness CLE's will be held in October, 2014. The next meeting of the subcommittee working on these programs will be held on June 30, 2014 to finalize topics and identify speakers.

- Early engagement of young parents who have grown up in foster care. The program will explore the impact that foster care has on a young person's parenting abilities and the types of reunification and support services available to assist these young parents. This CLE may consist of 2 separate events: One focused on young mothers and one focused on young fathers. Judge Sherman suggested the CP Taskforce co-sponsor this program and expressed an interest in including Dr. Chinitz, Michael Greifinger and Nanette Schorr on the sub-committee. Judge Sherman will reach out to Dr. Chinitz. Mary Anne Mendenhall, Barbara Stock, Jackie Saed and Sherry Laird will join the sub-committee. The next sub-committee meeting, chaired by Mara Fleder, is scheduled for July 31, 2014.

- New Topics for Continuing Education Programs

The Committee discussed interest in Immigration and U-Visas as a potential topic for CLE.

The next meeting of the Gender Fairness Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2014 at 1:15 PM, 9th Floor Conference Room, Bronx County Family Court.

Gender Fairness Committee - Bronx Family Court
Chair, Hon. Carol Sherman
September 29, 2014
1:15 PM
Bronx County Family Court
9th Floor Conference Room

A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2014 meeting
2. Report from Subcommittees
3. Proposed Continuing Education Programs
4. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Training Series - October 2014
 - a) October 1, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - Vicarious Trauma
 - b) October 7, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - The Effects of Intimate Partner Violence on Babies and Young Children
 - c) October 14, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - The Intersection of Orders of Protection and Immigration
 - d) October 20, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - Litigating Trauma: How Trauma Impacts Courtroom Experience
 - e) October 29, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - Cultural Competency
5. Breast Cancer Screening Scan Van - October 28, 2014
6. New Projects
 - a) Dress for Success - Fall 2014
7. Next Meeting - December 11, 2014
- 8.. Future Meeting Dates

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

September 29, 2014

In Attendance

Hon. Llinet Rosado, J.F.C.
Mary Jane Cotter, Court Attorney
Denise Dizzine, CWCIP Liaison
Mara Fleder, The Bronx Defenders
Esther Halcomb, Case Coordinator
Kim Kavern, Safe Horizons
Mary Anne Mendenhall, The Bronx Defenders
Yosef Seigel, Associate Court Clerk
Lauren Teichner, The Bronx Defenders
Rebecca Visgaitis, Corporation Counsel
Mike Williams, Clerk of Court
Rhonda T. Young, Case Coordinator

Meeting was Chaired by Judge Llinet Rosado on behalf of Judge Sherman. Minutes from the meeting of June 23, 2014 were approved by the Committee.

- Supervised Visitation in CVO Cases - Supervised Exchange Program
Judge Rosado reported on behalf of Court Attorney Lindsay Copeland, the last scheduled meeting of The Supervised Visitation Program was cancelled because of conflict. Also, the program is no longer full, as reported in the past, and is now accepting referrals.
- Special Projects: Mammography Van and Dress for Success
Rhonda Young has arranged for free mammogram services at the courthouse provided by the Project Renewal Mobile Mammography Scan Van Program on October 28, 2014. The van will be located in front of 900 Sheridan Avenue from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Esther Halcomb will arrange for the Committee to sponsor a clothing drive to benefit Dress for Success, an organization that provides professional business attire free-of-charge to economically disadvantaged women in January 2015.
- Changing Tables
Changing tables are now installed in the women's restrooms on the first, seventh and eighth floors. The tables are stainless steel with a Kaola Bear design.

- Continuing Education Programs

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month

DV Awareness CLE's will be held in October, 2014. The Committee has met 5 times.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Training Series will consist of the following presentations, with about 15 total speakers:

- a) October 1, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - Vicarious Trauma
- b) October 7, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - The Effects of Intimate Partner Violence on Babies and Young Children
- c) October 14, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - The Intersection of Orders of Protection and Immigration
- d) October 20, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - Litigating Trauma: How Trauma Impacts Courtroom Experience
- e) October 29, 2014 ~ 1 to 2 pm - Cultural Competency

So far, about 60 people are registered for the CLE's.

Safe Horizons will decorate the Bronx Family Court Help Center in purple in October, 2014 for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Hostos College students created art work to depict domestic violence. The Committee is working on how to transport the paintings and display them.

Materials from each DV program will be available for those who can not attend the presentations.

- Proposed Continuing Education Programs

The Sub-Committee on Young Parents in Foster Care, chaired by Mara Fleder, met in August, 2014. This CLE should focus on early engagement of young parents who have grown up in foster care, and may consist of 2 separate events: One focused on young mothers and one focused on young fathers

The next meeting of the Gender Fairness Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 1:15 PM, 9th Floor Conference Room.

New York County Family Court Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Gloria Sosa-Lintner, Chair

Gender Fairness Committee, New York County Family Court

Chair: *Hon. Gloria Sosa-Lintner*

Members: *Hon. Douglas Hoffman, Supervising Judge of the New York County Family Court; Danielle Rodriguez, Supervising Court Attorney; Wilfredo Suarez, Court Attorney; and Kecia Ettiene, Senior Court Clerk, Permanency Planning Division*

Counties Served: *New York*

2014 Meetings & Special Events

The Committee disseminated all notices on the various meetings held by the NYC Civil and Supreme Court Committees.

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

We are officially co-sponsoring the session on 2/24/2015 "Healthy Heart" commemorating Heart Disease Awareness and Go Red for Women Month.

Queens Family Court
Women in the Courts/Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Margaret Parisi McGowan, Chair

June M. Brieese, Chair

Queens Family Court Women in the Courts/ Gender Fairness Committee

Chair(s): *Hon. Margaret Parisi McGowan, Chair; June M. Brieese, Co-Chair*

Members: *Aileen Kelly, Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk, Debra Edwards, Court Attorney, Latoya Stephens, Court Attorney, Rachel Gordon, Secretary*

Counties Served: *Queens*

2014 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: *None due to scheduling conflicts with speakers and the Family Court calendar*

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer? *No*

2014 Special Events

- *We had a contingent of visiting Judges from Family Court in Ecuador and the Consulate who visited our Referee Negrón's courtroom where she issues Orders of Protection for the litigant's before her if needed. We had an attorney who spoke Spanish and interpreted the proceedings for them. We also took them on a tour of the court house and they also had a private lunch meeting with Judge Stokinger. They explained to us that this was the highlight of their trip to New York City. They were educated on our family court procedures, met with various Judges, attorneys, Clerks and also enjoyed their tour of Family Court.*
- *Queens County Family Court also had many interns sit in the various parts from St. John's and CUNY Law Schools. Judge McGowan was proactive in explaining the law in Child Protection, Abuse and Neglect cases under Article 10 to them. She spoke to them about any proceedings arising from the Article 10 cases including: custody, guardianship, violations, paternity and petitions terminating parental rights. This program was ongoing throughout 2014. Other agencies were involved as well such as ACS, CFR, Legal Aid as well as the 18-b attorneys. It was very successful.*

Future Plans

What are your plans for 2015?

We plan to hold meetings on the following meetings:

- *Criminal Court Judge Toko Serita as our guest speaker regarding Human Trafficking.*
- *Meryl Kovit, Esq. speaking on the History of Family Court, part 2.*
- *Financial Planning by Gary Schwartz from the Madison Planning Group.*
- *Seminar on reducing stress in the workplace to prevent major physical illnesses including hypertension through meditation and yoga.*

- *Immigration and U-Visas and how it affects victims of Domestic Violence*
- *Safe Horizons to speak on how technology is used to stalk women and people in general and what we can do to protect ourselves.*

Concerns

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

Domestic Violence, Alcohol & Substance Abuse, Financial Independence

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? *Litigants require more services, i.e., Mental Health services and Substance Abuse services that are closer to where they reside or work.*

Do you see unmet training needs? *No*

Educational Programs and Projects

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? *We already have numerous CLE and meetings at lunch time now.*

Would online viewing or video conferencing be a useful tool for this purpose? *No*

Would you or your members be more able to participate if the program was available in real time on your desktop computer? *No*

Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? *Not at this time.*

How can the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts be of assistance to your committee?

At the present time the assistance from NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts is adequate for our needs now.